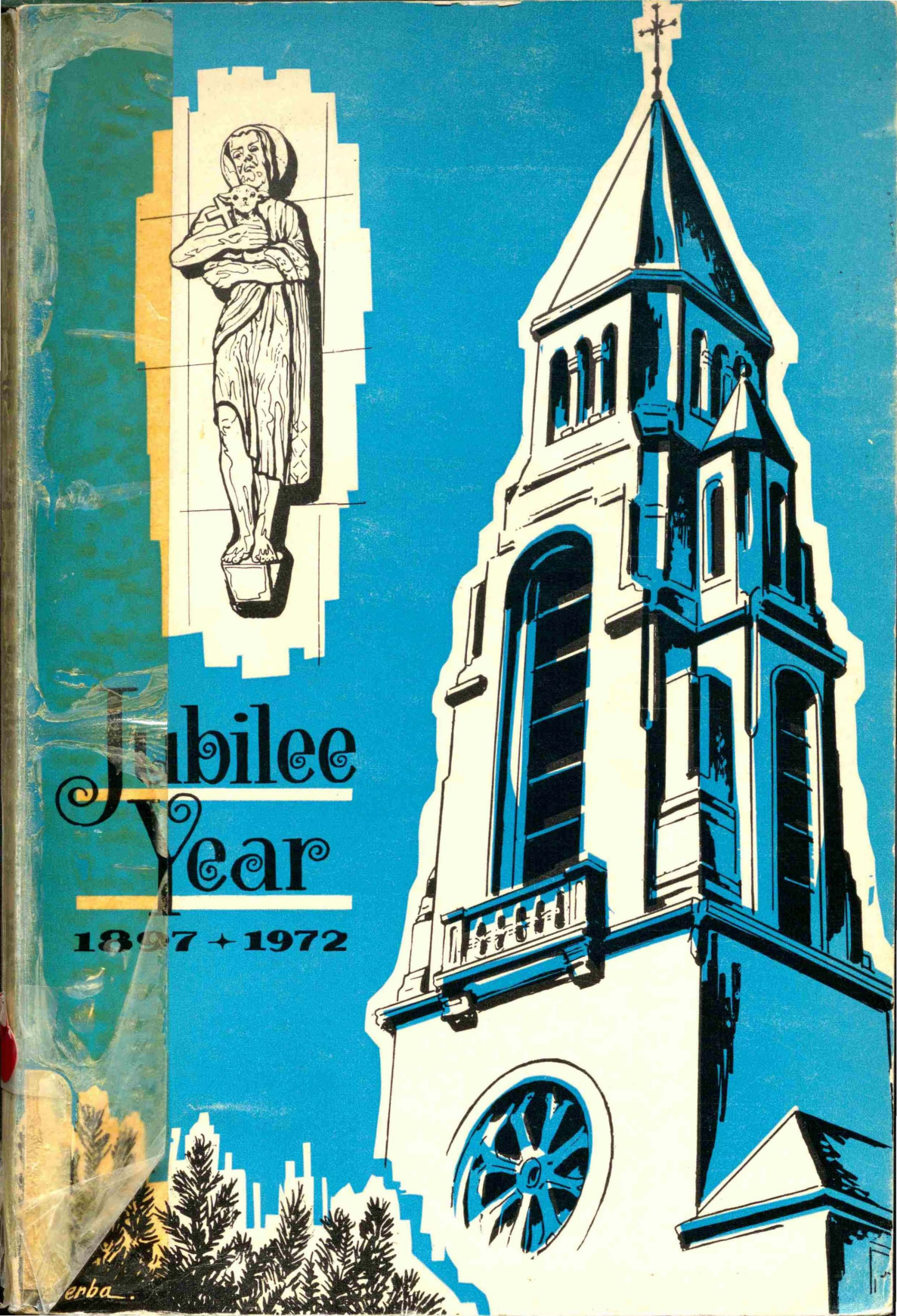
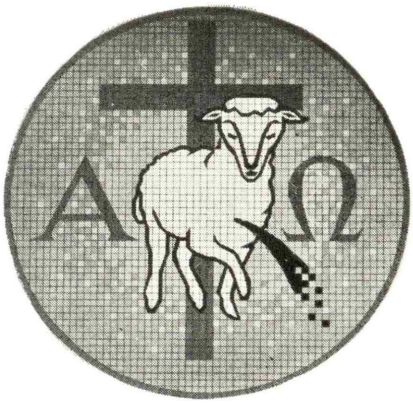

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The Jubilee Story of St. John's -- Whiting

by

Edwin G. Kaiser, C.PP.S.

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The Jubilee Story of St. John's-Whiting 1897-1972 *commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of St. John the Baptist Parish, Whiting, Indiana. It is a brief summation and continuation of the Golden Jubilee Book,* FIFTY YEARS OF GRACE, *published in* 1947. *The summary forms the first part of our Jubilee Story and introduces the more detailed history of the last twenty five years which is the principal concern for our Diamond Jubilee Year, Nineteen Hundred and Seventy-Two.*

NIHIL OBSTAT . . . Edward McCarthy, Censor deputatus
IMPRIMI POTEST . . . Charles Bricher, Provincial
IMPRIMATUR . . . Andrew Grutka

PRINTERS . . . Messenger Press, Carthagena, Ohio



DEDICATION

IN UNION
WITH ALL THE PEOPLE OF GOD
THE MEMBERS
OF
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH
DEDICATE
THIS JUBILEE STORY
OF
GOD'S LOVE AMONG MEN
TO
JOHN THEIR PATRON
WHO
BAPTIZED THE SAVIOR
AND
LED ALL MEN TO HIM
WHEN HE SAID:
BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD
WHO TAKES AWAY
THE SIN OF THE WORLD

A PREFACE

The Germans have a word for it: *Heilsgeschichte,* translated, *Salvation History.* This means the sacred story of facts and events as thematically interrelated and recorded. But it is much more. Their inner meaning and reality flowing from God's plan, his presence and action in grace-endowed events, bring about our salvation. Broadly speaking, all history is salvation history insofar as all events fit into the eternal design with Christ as center. For Christ alone makes human activity meaningful.

Taken more rigidly, however, salvation history is directly bound up with the divine revelation proclaimed by the prophets in the Old Testament and announced by the God-man himself in words of truth and acts of power. Salvation history is nothing less than God's gracious communication of himself to the world through Christ. There is, indeed, no other mystery of God, says Augustine, than Christ (Ep 197, n 34).

Through the work and presence of Christ in the world we have the Church, the People of God, his Mystical Body, the Fellowship of Worship, the Temple of God. The Church is the continuation of the redemptive work of Christ, by whose presence and action we are made holy and pleasing to God. This Church is one, no matter how diffused throughout the world. She is present undiminished in every nation, every diocese, every local church.

Says the Second Vatican Council:

> This Church of Christ is truly present in all legitimate local congregations of the faithful which, united with their pastors, are themselves called churches in the New Testament. For in their own locality these are the new people called by God, in the Holy Spirit and in much fullness. In them the faithful are gathered together by the preaching of the gospel of Christ, and the mystery of the Lord's Supper is celebrated, "that by the flesh and blood of the Lord's body the whole brotherhood

> may be joined together." In any community existing around an altar, under the sacred ministry of the bishop, there is manifested a symbol of that charity and "unity of the Mystical Body, without which there can be no salvation." In these communities, though frequently small and poor, or living far from any other, Christ is present. By virtue of him the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church gathers together. (Vatican II, *Dogmatic Constitution on the Church,* Ch. III, no. 26)

All this is verified in our church of St. John the Baptist, Whiting, Indiana, joined in grace-fellowship with the People of God in the Diocese of Gary, with the People of God in the universal Church.

Ubi ecclesia ibi Christus (Where the Church is, there is Christ). Salvation history is the official presence and action of Christ in each individual church, as it is in the Church throughout the world. Our jubilee story of St. John's tells the salvation history of this parish, as the history of the entire Church tells the salvation history of the Church in all the world. What we say of the universal Church is fully reflected in the life and times of St. John's parish.

> The Church is the official presence of the grace of Christ in the public history of the one human race. In its socially organized form the People of God, as in fact redeemed by Christ, received his permanent presence through history. And when we examine what this one reality implies, it means a presence, as it were an incarnation, of the truth of Christ in the Church through Scripture, tradition and magisterium; a similar embodiment and presence of Christ's will in the Church's teaching when she announces Christ's precepts in her pastoral office and her constitution; and a presence and embodiment, again analogous to the incarnation, of the grace of Christ, for the individual as such, through the sacraments. (Karl Rahner, quoted in the *Everlasting Covenant,* p. 222)

Our jubilee story includes not merely St. John's church-events or parish activities; it goes further. For the work of the Christian in the world also reflects salvation history. Such is the thought of Vatican II in its explanation of the secular vocation of the Christian. All the daily concerns, the trades, the crafts, the worldly activities bear witness to Christ, if performed sincerely in Christian love.

Our use of the term *story* in no way means to convey the impression that we are writing fiction, but rather history in the sense of the familiar telling of what has happened. It is directed to the reader as something which he already knows, but wishes to share with our family of St. John's. As we are involved in its telling, the light of God's grace should awaken in us a gratitude for the gift of faith in the Church, in the Christ who is our First Love.

We think of Christ in the Church on earth and in the Church of glory — with the dear ones who have gone before us — as we reflect on the Christ-presence and Christ-action in the parish of St. John's.

> In the Church the Christian encounters the glorified *Kyrios* (Lord) who sits at the right of the Father bearing the marks of death and resurrection. The events of his life are for him no mere past occurrences, but constant vital presence. If, therefore, the Christian is united with Christ, then he enters into fellowship with that Christ who bears the marks of death and resurrection. Through this fellowship he enters into that event which imprints its mark upon Christ himself. The vital force of the death and resurrection of Christ encompasses him. On the one hand he is stricken with death; on the other, given the germ of new life. The first proceeds from the death of Christ and contacts the sinful, transitory existence of man; the other from the resurrection and fashions the imperishable existence of heavenly glory. (Adapted from Michael Schmaus, *Katholische Dogmatik,* Band III, 2, p. 55f).

Edwin G. Kaiser, C.PP.S.



Mr. Joseph Gerba, Sr., standing, Cover Artist; Father Edward C. Homco, left, Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church; and Father Edwin G. Kaiser, Author of this Jubilee Story of St. John's - Whiting.

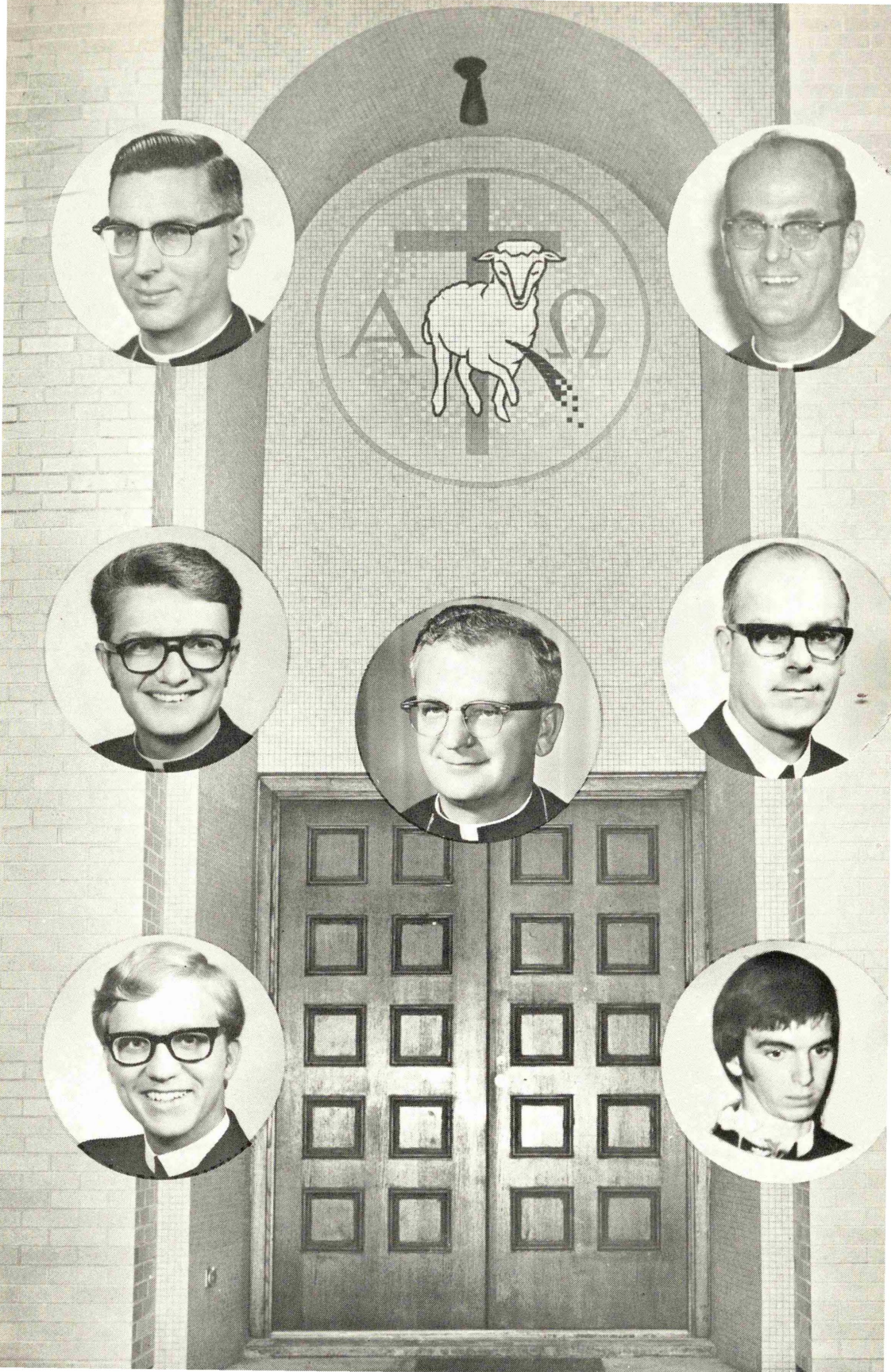
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Both the work and its story in our jubilee book flow from the hands and hearts of the people of St. John's and their priests. Gratefully we acknowledge them as the prime sources of this Jubilee Story. To repeat all the names, even of those who wrote copiously in response to our letters for informaion or otherwise made major contributions, would add little to what is already indicated in these pages. But we must thank Bishop Andrew Grutka for the official *imprimatur;* Father Charles Bricher, provincial of our Precious Blood Province (Cincinnati) for his *imprimi potest;* and Father Edward McCarthy for the *nihil obstat.* We cherish this official approbation, because it reflects our loyalty to both diocese and community, and as well their interest in our effort.

The first part of our text on school and sisters is largely the work of Sister Eugenia Logan, S.P., and Sister Ann Jerome Strbjak, S.P. The cover design is from the hand of Joseph Gerba, Sr., the photographic design and coordination are the work of Miss Lillian Jefchak. A special word of thanks is due to the photographic talent of Bernard Chiluski, Eugene Korba, Ed Meissler, Frank Delinck, and Father Paul Wohlwend. If the text bear bears marks of stylistic perfection, much of it is due to the painstaking effort of Father James Kelley and his associates of the Messenger Press.

Throughout these months of preparation and documentation "all at the parish house" of St. John's have shown the utmost patience, which calls to mind St. Paul's: "There is no limit to love's forbearance" (1 Cor 13:7). This was especially exemplified in the helpful guidance of the entire project by Father Edward Homco.

Parish Pastoral Staff
Fathers Paul Wohlwend and John Kalicky
top
Fathers Thomas Brenberger and Edward Homco, Brother Leo Utrup
middle
Brothers George Blackney and Gerard Montana
bottom


A
Ω



PART ONE

FIFTY YEARS OF GRACE IN BRIEF REVIEW

Early Backgrounds

Our *Fifty Years of Grace* first tells of the early background years when northwestern Indiana was a land of lakes and rivers, of swamps and dunes. The Great Glacier had covered this region and left it a land of lakes. There was the great lake which the French explorers called Lake Illinois. Now we call it Lake Michigan. And there were three little lakes, Wolf, Berry and George, which have changed much in the course of time.

This vast wilderness of sloughs, swamps and sand ridges was until comparatively recent times a paradise of wild life. Before the white man came it was the favorite hunting ground of the Pottawatomie Indians. The swamps were the feeding ground of wild ducks and geese. And the migrating wild pigeons darkened the sky in their annual flight. The Indians in frail bark canoes sought the delicious flat white fish or the enticing muskellunge in treacherous Lake Michigan.

The first reference to a white man in the history of Lake County dates back to 1678. The Frenchman La Salle paddled down the Calumet River on his historic mission from the French crown. About the same time Pere Marquette passed through, taking special note of the species of rare birds and fine game; and also the severity of the lake region winter.

Indian trails led across the wilds, one coming from the east and northeast passed through LaPorte and Chesterton to what is now East Gary. Here at the division point, were workshops, dancing grounds, and burial grounds. From here two trails led westerly. One led through what is today Schererville and Dyer to Illinois.

In 1833 the United States government bought a million acres of land from the Indians (at three cents an acre), and the whole region was soon settled with whites. The first cabin in Lake County was built in this year by a white man named Bennet. A year later the Solon Robinson family settled on land now a part of Crown Point. In the same year the claim register records six settlements. By 1835 the number was twenty-nine. In 1840 the population of what is now Lake County was 1,468. The first church in Lake County, dedicated to St. John the Evangelist — a frame church — was built in 1839.

The first record of land purchase in what is the City of Whiting today was that of George M. Roberts, March 6, 1847. Today Robertsdale bears his name.

The early settlers were largely German, who earned their living from work on the railroads. As late as 1889 there were no more than forty families. Slovaks from neighboring Illinois settled in Whiting somewhat later, around the years 1892 and 1893. Eventually a great portion of the city's inhabitants were Slavs, and among these many were Slovak Catholics.

Their spiritual care was entrusted to the pastor of the Sacred Heart Church, who provided for confessions in the Slovak language by occasionally engaging the spiritual service of a Slovak priest. Only after considerable effort could a group of resolute laymen arrange through the pastor of Sacred Heart and Bishop Rademacher of the diocese of Ft. Wayne to have their own Slovak priest. He was Benedict Rajcany.

On Easter of 1897 Father Benedict offered his first Mass in the Church of the Sacred Heart. He lived with the pastor for a time as plans were made for a new Slovak parish, with its own church. In a matter of months the "little meeting hall of the Slovak Catholic Union, Branch 130," became the Slovak church of Whiting. It was dedicated to St. John the Baptist because the first pastor felt like "one crying in the wilderness," when he came to his new field of labor in the United States.

The parish school also had very humble beginnings in the back room of the rectory. Here seven or eight boys were taught English.

But the school's progress was amazingly rapid. In 1900 the first school — a four-room frame building and a Sisters' home — was erected. On October 10, 1901 the school opened with seventy-five pupils.

The new teachers were the Sisters of Providence from Saint Mary's of the Woods, Terre Haute, Indiana. Sister Mary Linus, the superior, and Sister Mary Helena, and Sister Mary Aquilla were the first teachers.

From the very beginning the parish of St. John found organizational means to carry on its activity. The more directly spiritual group activity was manifested in the Senior Rosary Society, dating from the close of the century. In 1933 it had 315 members, with average attendance of 290.

The Golden Jubilee book notes that there were two Rosary Societies — the Senior numbering 356 members in 1947, and the Junior (so-called because it was organized later, namely in 1934) 229. Less directly spiritual was the

First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union, founded shortly after the Rosary Society. A close bond always linked the Rosary Society and the Ladies Jednota, as Branch 81 of the Slovak Ladies Union is called. The Golden Jubilee book tells us they had a membership of 1040 at the time of the jubilee. There was also a Junior Order, Branch 58, formed in 1908.

A Chronicle: 1902-1925

1902: Founding of St. Benedict's Court 1325 of the Catholic Order of Foresters. Purchase of land, 15 acres, in South Hammond for a cemetery at a cost of $3,000.

1903: Expansion of the school at cost of $14,000. Eight rooms and auditorium.

1904: Lightning struck the church spire. Founding of Marian Sodality, which eventually became the Daughters of Mary.

1905: parish house destroyed by fire. New parochial home cost $10,000. This remained in use until the present parish house was built.

1907: First eighth grade commencement at St. John's school. Graduates were three girls.

1914: Church was enlarged. Extension, all brick, was built in front; a side entrance to the choir loft and a shrine of our Lady of Lourdes were constructed. The old part was brick veneered to match the new. The church could now seat 650; yet people were often forced to stand in the aisles on Sunday. Father Kostik added: "And even outside on the sidewalk."

1915: The Sisters' home which had been enlarged to nine rooms (with a basement) was found to be too small. A new home built at a cost of $20,000, was ready in 1916. At this time Father Clement Mlynarovich was placed in charge of the Slovak Catholics in Indiana Harbor.

1921: The first regular assistant at St. John's was appointed, Father Michael Kosko. At this time the Precious Blood Fathers from Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, were called on for week-end help. One of these Father's preached the first English sermon in St. John's Church. And, one of the visiting college professors, a recently ordained priest, was soon identified with every phase of St. John's rapidly expanding activity. He was John Kostik.

The First Years of Father Kostik

Because of his experience in languages Father Kostik was a most acceptable visitor at St. John's. In addition to English and German, he spoke Slovak and Hungarian and

heard confessions in Slovene, Croatian and Polish. Add to this his charm and willingness to work, and we readily understand why Father Benedict wanted him to be his permanent assistant. After his two years of professorship at St. Joseph's, Father Kostik did graduate work in Wisconsin and Massachusetts. On September 18, 1925 he was assigned to St. John's as permanent assistant.

It was from Father John that we learned the following about his first years at Whiting. In 1925 the Holy Name Society and the Daughters of Mary were founded. Materially there was the gathering of funds for the new church. He went from house to house accompanied by one of the trustees, each family being asked to pledge $150.00. This two-year canvass served also as census taking and official home visitation. The spring of 1927 was marked by the "Great Bazaar." A Chrysler car was raffled off, with the heartening return of $15,000.00.

From the very beginning Father Benedict was interested in the true Americanization of his parish. During World War I, when many of foreign birth found themselves "aliens," even "enemy aliens," the older members of St. John's parish, as American citizens, could avoid harassment. The ancient heritage of old-world culture, however, was not destroyed. Even the youth retained interest in their racial background and language, while rapidly advancing to positions of trust in public life.

On December 18, 1927, at the suggestion of Father Benedict, who had resigned, the bishop appointed Father Kostik pastor of St. John's.

Father Isidore Stadtherr, as of August 18, 1927, was the first assistant, and the second assistant, as of August 24, 1929, was Father Cyril Ernst. These appointments, in effect, placed the parish's guidance in the hands of the Fathers of the Precious Blood.

These were the years of planning for the new church; years of increased interest in the beauty of the Liturgy. In 1928 fine new gold vestments were purchased at the cost of $1,500.00. Never before had vestments been purchased; the women of the parish themselves had made them. This labor of love for the Eucharistic Lord was undertaken by the Ladies Altar Society which long cared for the laundering of the altar linens. The ladies were organized, if we may trust our sources, in 1923 with thirty-three members for the purpose of decorating the altars and purchasing sanctuary equipment. However, some sources suggest that the Society was organized in 1927 with 150 charter members. Perhaps

the later date refers to a re-organization, and the earlier date to the first founding.

The New Church

The first work toward the new church was the breaking of ground on May 20, 1930. On Sunday, July 6, 1930, the cornerstone was laid. The following account is from July 10 issue of the *Catholic Daily Tribune* (a daring venture in Catholic journalism which could not be sustained for long):

> St. John's Church of Hammond, Indiana, popularly called Whiting, celebrated its 33rd anniversary on July 6 by laying the cornerstone for a magnificent new church. The ceremony was performed by the Rt. Rev. John F. Noll, D.D., Bishop of Ft. Wayne, in the presence of numerous clergy and a great concourse of people. The crowd began to gather early so that at 2:30 the Societies led by the crack Drum and Bugle Corps of the American Legion, followed by St. John's parish band, marched in splendid procession to the site of the festivities.

In his sermon the bishop praised the parish for its co-operation in the great task, and urged that the work be continued until a "new set of buildings replaces the old." Father Benedict, preaching in Slovak, dwelt on the pioneer days of the parish's founding. He was received with special warmth by the people.

The dedication of the imposing new edifice took place less than a year later — June 21, 1931. Without any neglect of the spiritual — perhaps even because the spiritual progress was so marked — the hard task of "collecting funds" was accomplished. Although he had little previous financial experience, Father Kostik could report that in this whole period of financial stress, when failures were rather the rule throughout the country, the parish lost only $340.00. The gentle Carmelite Saint, the Little Flower, who also had no financial experience, was the heavenly patroness of the whole project. Striking are the words of Father Cyril Ernst in the *Ben Franklin News,*

> The new edifice is the result of the cooperation of a generous people with a zealous pastor, and will stand for ages as a monument to their undying zeal and efforts. Massive and impressive the new church stands, a masterpiece in style, Romanesque, giving God a magnificent home for the little seed of faith He planted in the souls of Slovak people ages ago. (June 17, 1931).

Assistants at St. John

The first assistant of Father Kostik, as noted, was Father Isidore Stadtherr, who came to Whiting in 1927. In 1929 Father Walter Wartinger came to assist in what was rapidly becoming too great a burden for a pastor and a single assistant. He remained but a few months to be succeeded by Father Ernst. Of course they had their difficulties with the Slovak language, but things proceeded smoothly in basic essential matters. But what Father Stadtherr calls the "big work" dealt with the parochial organizations. We quote his words from *Fifty Years of Grace*:

> From the very beginning the assistant's big work at the parish was the organizing of Young People's Sodalities, Junior and Senior Daughters of Mary, Junior and Senior Holy Name Societies, the choir and athletic club . . . I was the lone assistant until 1929 and had all these societies under my direction, except the choir and athletic clubs. In 1929 Father Wartinger came and took in charge the two branches of the Daughters of Mary and had them well started by the time he left, in the summer of 1929.
>
> When Father Ernst arrived, he took over the Daughters of Mary, the choir, the athletic club, and the dramatic club . . . The new church was planned without a basement. However, Father Ernst insisted it should have a basement, and he kept on insisting . . . Finally he won out, to the very great benefit of the parish . . . (He) also managed the remodelling of the old church into a gymnasium . . . In the gym were born the St. John basketball teams, and dramatics got the boost that carried them to the top (*ibid,* 51f)

Father Ernst was particularly successful in the latter area; also in his eloquence in preaching the Word. His transfer, in 1934, to the "mission band" of the Precious Blood Fathers was largely due to this special gift. After years of labor in the mission and parochial apostolate, he died on July 4, 1968 at Pulaski, Indiana.

His successor at St. John's was Father Cletus Dirksen; appointment effective June 14, 1934. Father Cletus was active in continuing the men's choir. He remained until 1937 when he was replaced by Father Stephen Tatar, September 15, of that year. Later he undertook graduate studies, taught political science, and authored a book on Catholic social principles. He died in 1971, on March 22.

Father Tatar was especially helpful in the spiritual work

of the parish because of his fluency in Slovak. He took charge of the parish when Father Kostik, who was much involved in the administrative affairs of the Precious Blood Society after 1938, was absent on such duties at Rome. While at St. John — he was transferred on March 31, 1942 — Father Tatar was active in the youth movement, directed basketball and baseball teams, and made quarters for the youth activities under the gymnasium. He was also the spiritual guide of the Senior and Junior Daughters of Mary and chaplain of the Catholic Order of Foresters, St. Benedict court. Father Tatar later had a distinguished career as chaplain in the armed forces.

From the above it is clear that the tenure of assistants at St. John's was usually short, as is the case in most parishes. There was one assistant, however, who became almost a permanent institution. The Golden Jubilee books says of him that he was more than a part of the parish activity. "He was one of the deeper forces for good which will long abide." He never shunned a task because it was arduous, never sought it because it bore him honor. We quote from the *Fifty Years of Grace* citation of a local newspaper.

> Father Stadtherr is well known to the young and old of St. John's and throughout the city for his wide interest in the activities of Catholic youth. He has executed wisely for many years the duties of spiritual adviser for various organizations. When he arrived as assistant in 1927, he found the Holy Name Society to be a small group, indeed, and has fostered it until at present it ranks as one of the largest and most enterprizing societies of the parish. He is founder of the Acadians, a stamp club, and of the Junior Holy Name Society. Under his wise counsel and guidance, the younger athletes of the parish, known as the Athletic Association, have been organized into teams, competing with splendid results in contests of civic as well as C.Y.O. origin. (p. 72)

Father Stadtherr, was made pastor of St. Mary's Church in Centerville, Iowa, and is now chaplain at Kneipp Springs, Rome City, Indiana. Father John Lefko came to Whiting on June 1, 1938, to take his place.

Additional Assistant

The expansion of parochial activity made an additional assistant imperative. Father Gerard Lutkemeier, who came in September 1941, was noted for his knowledge of languages, appreciation for Church music, and singular unworldliness.

The year after his arrival he took up the task of organist. He also assumed charge of the Daughters of Mary and the Choral Club. A great spiritual work was the fruit of his zeal: the founding of the Legion of Mary, which became a great influence for good far beyond the parish limits. Father Gerard remained until July 1945. In the fall of the year he entered Catholic University for studies in library science. For years in the spirit of biblical obedience he worked in the library of St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana. At present he is at St. Michael Church near Bellevue, Ohio, where the Fathers of the Precious Blood have charge of the beautiful woodland shrine of the Mother of Sorrows.

Shortly after the arrival of Father Lutkemeier, Father Louis Telegdy replaced Father Tatar. The date was March 31, 1942. His specialty in parish concerns was the youth. He took charge of the Delta Mu, youthful auxiliary of the Daughters of Mary, the Youth Club and the Athletic Association. The old church turned gym and recreation center now welcomed the youth from neighboring parishes. Father Telegdy made the center a place where parents need never fear sending their children. The *Hammond Times* of January 12, 1946 tells the story:

> Approximately 600 Calumet region teen-agers exchange school gossip between jive sessions twice a week in St. John's Ballroom in Whiting — the answer to youth's quest for a way to spend idle hours . . . The atmosphere is similar to that of a downtown nitery, with a revolving multicolored crystal ball chandelier, a soft drink bar, and a small stage from which visiting personalities are introduced to the youth. Known as St. John's Ballroom, it is likewise a clearing house for ambitious youths banding together into small orchestras and seeking an opportunity to play before the public. Under strict supervision the teen-age clientele is increasing with each dance. Parents have lauded the program and letters of commendation pour into the rectory.

In September 1945 Father Edward Homco and Father Joseph Anthamatten came to St. John's. Father Anthamatten's brief stay, a little more than a year, was especially significant because of the single minded concern he displayed for the spiritual progress of the parish. This progress was noted particularly in the work of the Legion of Mary. He managed also to carry on the tasks of Father Lutkemeier in the choirs, though music was not his forte. Father Edward Moorman, who succeeded Father Anthamatten, had been in the armed forces as chaplain of paratroopers. He took charge

of the choirs, the Legion of Mary, the Holy Name Society, and the Scout Troops.

At this time an older priest, Father Frederick Schaeper came to assist in the parish. After repeated heart attacks, he was called to his reward on July 30, 1946. Toward the close of the year, Father John Wilson, priest-hero of Bataan, served briefly at St. John's before his departure for South America where he began the special apostolate of the Precious Blood Fathers in Chile. This apostolate is linked with the parish particularly through the zeal and vision of Father John Kostik.

Father John Lefko, Pastor, 1945-1953

Father Lefko had been assistant at St. John's since the departure of Father Stadtherr, June 1, 1938. He now stepped into Father Kostik's shoes. Father Kostik was named rector of St. Charles Seminary at Carthagena, Ohio.

The Closing Decade
A Chronicle: In Sorrow

Our Golden Jubilee Book concludes with an elaborate summary of sacred events. It numbers the baptisms, the marriages and communions, also the deaths and burials Some readers today are likely to raise an eyebrow, or mutter that you can't "computerize" religion. Numbers are no test of spiritual value. The statement, neither obviously true nor obviously false, is grossly misleading. Every human statistic has a deeper meaning! It would be impossible to grasp human life — and even spiritual activity in community — without "vital statistics." It is for this reason that we associate the statistical fact that 1235 parishioners died in Christ and were buried in sacred soil in the fifty years of St. John's existence.

For this reason we record three special instances of death in this final decade of the Fifty Years of Grace.

Father Benedict Rajcany

In tender sympathy the *Hammond Times,* May 20, 1937, tells the story of this death:

> The body of the Rev. Benedict M. Rajcany, popularly known as the 'Little Father,' founder of St. John's Catholic Church, will arrive here Sunday from Atlanta, Georgia, where the priest died suddenly yesterday afternoon on a train on route from Whiting to his home in Orlando, Florida, He was 68.

Because of his illness, the Rev. Rajcany was accompanied on his return trip home by the Rev. Cletus Dirksen, an assistant at St. John's parish. He collapsed during the night as the train was bearing him southward.

We have the account of the funeral services in *Our Sunday Visitor,* May 29, 1937:

> On Tuesday morning, funeral services were conducted in St. John's Church, Whiting, for the Rev. Benedict M. Rajcany, founder and first pastor of the parish . . . The body was carried in procession to the church accompanied by sixteen priests and about 2,000 of the laity . . . Monsignor Victor Blahunka preached the sermon in Slovak and the Most Rev. Bishop Noll preached in English. The body was interred in the shadow of a large cross in the middle of St. John's cemetery.

The following is from our Golden Jubilee Book:

> There was sad news too in this year of 1946. One of the assistant Fathers, the Reverend Frederick Schaeper, who had come to St. John's in ill health and suffered and labored, was called to his reward on July 30, 1946. He is remembered for his practical talent in things spiritual and material, for his quiet and matter-of-fact manner in facing realities and bearing up in trial. (p. 85f)

Parish picnic days are beautiful fun days, always crowding out sorrow and gloom. But one of the St. John picnic days was very sad. It was in the summer of 1942. After Sunday Mass the children were packed into two trucks to be taken to Washington Park in Michigan City, Indiana, for an outing. No word expresses it so well as "picnic." In the first truck were about forty girls, in the second about thirty boys and eight girls. Not a care in the world. The first truck arrived at the picnic ground. The second was detained by a flat tire in Gary. After a short delay it was on the road again.

According to reports, as the driver approached the South Shore railroad crossing at the Lake-Porter county line he noticed — but too late — a train fast approaching. He tried to stop. This was impossible. Then he urged the truck to speed ahead of the train. He failed, and the train plowed into the truck.

The driver, Michael Fred Solomon, and the owner, Mike Celenica, who was riding with him, were both killed. Killed likewise was little George Mateja, thirteen years of age. Eleven of the children were hurt, one fatally, Anthony Pav-

liscak, who died a few days later. John Gurchiek, seventeen, was hurt badly but recovered, though he had to submit to the amputation of a foot.

It was a sad day for Father Kostik who was conducting Forty Hours Devotion at Park Falls, Wisconsin, at the time. A sad day for the parents and relatives. For the entire parish.

Lord, grant that as they died in Christ, they may rise with him in eternal glory.

Reflection on Death

(From Karl Rahner's Theology of Death)

Though we have said much about death, we have really said very little. For who can say much of the mysteries of human existence since, indeed, they have been taken up into the mysteries of God himself? And yet man must reflect on death — because his life is a life pointed to death. But far more, because his death is a mystery of Christ the Lord. Since the life of God and his glory have come into the world finally and definitively through the death of This-One-Who-Was-Crucified, there is no more decisive event in the world than his death. By comparison all other happening in the world is provisional and unimportant.

To understand this mystery and enter it into the liturgy of our life, we need only look to the death of the Crucified and to repeat after him the words which he spoke and which expressed both the profound depth and the lofty height of its meaning: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mk 15; 34) "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." (Lk 23:46)

To the right and the left of Christ there were — terrifying symbol — two others dying. Two men who blasphemed in the face of death, because they did not grasp its meaning. But really who can grasp it? One looked to the death of Christ. And what he saw was sufficient for him to understand also his own death. For one has grasped it correctly, if he says to Christ: "Jesus, remember me when you enter upon your reign." (Lk 23:42) To this dying man the Son of Man, who shared our mortal lot and redeemed it by sharing our life, answered: "I assure you: this day you will be with me in paradise." (Lk 23:43) This he says also to us.

But, that this message of the blessedness of our death would not deprive us of that holy fear in which precisely we should work out the blessedness of our death, he said to the other thief — nothing. The dark silence which hung over

this death is a warning that death can also be the breakthrough into eternal death. But in this fear and trembling we can hear the joyful tidings of the death which is life, of the coming of the Lord who is that life which knows no death, although it comes to us in death.

A Chronicle: In Joy

Joyful to the parents and the whole parish were the ordinations and religious professions of the children of St. John's who had dedicated themselves in a special commitment to God. The Golden Jubilee book gives the list; also some details of the liturgical celebrations. We merely repeat the list: Priests ordained, *Andrew Sulek,* June 5, 1927, *Gabriel Brenkus, C.PP.S.,* May 5, 1932, *Louis Duray,* May 22, 1937, *Stephen Cvaniga,* May 19, 1940, *Bernard Mores, C.PP.S.,* September 8, 1940, *Joseph Smolar, C.PP.S.,* March 8, 1942, *John Homco,* June 6, 1943, *Edward Homco, C.PP.S.,* December 5, 1943, *Michael Homco, C.PP.S.,* May 18, 1947, *Joseph Hajduch, C.PP.S.,* May 18, 1947, *Brother Henry Kosalko, C.PP.S.,* professed December 8, 1937.

The Final Years

1944 was a year of jubilees. On April 23 the St. George Lodge, branch 130 of the First Catholic Slovak Union, marked its fiftieth anniversary. It was most fitting that the lodge, so closely associated with the parish from its origins, should begin its celebration with the liturgical solemnity. The sermon was preached by Father Mlynarovich, noted Slovak leader and linguist. The patriotic character of the celebration was highlighted by the presence of the local congressman, Ray J. Madden, and the display and blessing of the service flag:

> The blessing of the service flag in the church at the solemn Mass was a very touching ceremony . . . The members of St. George Lodge filed past and touched the banner held aloft by the pastor. Then came the mothers, many in tears as one by one they lifted the fold of the flag to their lips . . . St. George Lodge had over one hundred men in the service of their country at this time.

In autumn the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union, Branch 81, celebrated its forty-fifth anniversary with solemn liturgy in the church and an evening festivity in the Slovak Dom. The twelfth Catholic Slovak Day is memorable for the solemn Mass in honor of the Saints, Cyril and Methodius,

and the social festivities in which the American Legion, the drill teams of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union, the boy and girl scouts, many officials, and the priests of the five Catholic Slovak churches of Lake County took part.

1944 was also the fifth anniversary of "Parish Night" which had grown into a parish institution for social activities. This year also marks significant changes of the times: Delta Mu Sorority is organized among girls of high school age. There is mention of a Youth Club admitting both boys and girls. There is also a shift in language. The Third Order of St. Francis becomes "bilingual." The reception of new members on March 19th is held in English. The suggestion that the parish organize a St. Vincent de Paul Society leads to some discussion and an initial effort at organization, but no permanent results.

In 1945, the year of the departure of Father Kostik, was jubilee year for the Senior Daughters of Mary, their twentieth. And for the Junior Order of the Jednota, their fortieth. The Fall Festival, on a grand scale, looked toward considerable financial help for the "Parochial Center." The parish with all the nation rejoices on VJ Day and thanks God for peace.

1946 AND THE PARISH PRESS

1946 is significant for parish communications: On April 21 the first issue of *Paranews* appeared in place of " Parish News." It bears evidence of the well-organized, active city parish which St. John's had become. Practically all the religious and social groups, which had suffered during the war, were now on a high level of efficiency. The drama club often had over fifty members present at its meetings. The Legion of Mary Summer School for little children had doubled its enrollment. The baseball team signed up in the George Halas Metropolitan League with 47 Chicago teams. The religious forums replaced the old study club. The Whiting Times has been printing Catholic Information articles. St. John's is the first parish to hold the Precious Blood novena. The parish outlay now totals $87,347.51, the income $95,570.58. A strenuous effort is made to reach the youth in public schools through special religious instruction. There are nine boys of the parish studying for the priesthood. Ten of the parish youth are students at St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, preparing for various professions. The parish has established a matrimonial clinic, a modern term for marriage guidance.

1947 Jubilee Year

The Jubilee Year was crowded with spiritual and social events which we can only list here: the missions and days of recollection, the Old-Timers Gathering, the stage play "Career Angel," the basketball tournament, the card party, the dedication of the sacred mural in St. John's with the sacred concert and sermon (broadcast in part over local radio), the Calendar Banquet, the Jubilee Jamboree Dance, the Spiritual Month of May with Solemn First Communion and two First Masses — and finally "The Day."

This was Sunday June 29th. On this feast day of Sts. Peter and Paul, Bishop Noll of Ft. Wayne celebrated the Pontifical Mass. Father Kostik preached the sermon. The St. John's combined choirs under direction of Father Edward Moorman sang the Mass. In the afternoon the parishioners gathered for the jubilee picnic at Eggers Grove in Illinois.

On Monday, June 30 a solemn Mass was offered for the deceased members and benefactors of the parish. On Tuesday a solemn Mass was offered in honor of the Precious Blood by Bishop-elect Joseph Marling. On Wednesday there was a solemn Mass for Father Benedict and the founders of the parish. The climax was the solemn liturgy in Whiting Park on Friday, July 4, with Bishop Bennett pontificating. And thus ended the Jubilee of 1947.

Closing the Golden Jubilee Book

As we close the pages of *Fifty Years of Grace* and turn to Jubilee Year 1972, we are haunted by many questions. So much that is new in liturgy, law, and spiritual practice has brought delight to some, and confusion to others. Very disturbing has been the persistent challenge to all traditional standards, in authority, moral values, social relations, public and private life. For our present purpose there are questions to which we must respond: Why do we have a parish at all? Or, if we must have parishes, what of the parish forms, the church buildings, the school, the rectory, the social center? All this warrants the following theological study as conclusion to this first part of our jubilee story.

Parochial Ministry: A Theological Reflection

The study of the parochial ministry should begin with the notion of the parish as we find it in the teaching of the Second Vatican Council. The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, after explaining that the liturgical life of the diocese

centers around the bishop and the cathedral church, gives the following descriptive definition of the parish:

> Because it is impossible for the bishop always and everywhere to preside over the whole flock in his Church, he cannot do otherwise than establish lesser groupings of the faithful. Among these, parishes set up locally under a pastor who takes the place of the bishop are the most important: for in a certain way they represent the visible Church as it is established throughout the world. Therefore, the liturgical life of the parish and its relationship to the bishop must be fostered in the thinking and practice of both laity and clergy; efforts also must be made to encourage a sense of community within the parish, above all in the common celebration of the Sunday Mass. (art. 42)

Such division of the diocese or bishopric is very ancient in the Church, though the term *parish* and its standing in law developed later. Christianity began in the cities where the bishop retained jurisdiction over the whole area. The members of the priest-group (presbyterate) celebrated the sacred liturgy in special places of worship (often called stations), no matter where they might live. The priests who assisted the bishop had no jurisdiction over any particular territory of their own. The city diocese was much like one large parish under the bishop. Later on (end of the third century) centers of pastoral ministry were established in the country side with their own permanent pastors. Here we have something like the territorial parish. In the Middle Ages the territorial element of these communities was much stressed. Eventually the local rural clergy came to possess jurisdiction over a definite territory with what is called ordinary (not delegated) power. Still later such organization prevailed also in the cities.

The parish relates essentially to communal spiritual life and activity through the bond with the bishop, whose authority is linked to a territory in the Church and to the Chief of Bishops in the Church. Further characterization of the parish must depend upon the diverse social conditions under which the pastoral ministry is carried out, and on the guidelines set by the Church.

The Council of Trent prescribed the formation of parishes, but did not determine that they should be exclusively either territorial or personal.

Sociological factors rather favored the territorial parish. Canon law in the early part of this century made territorial division of the diocese the basis of the general law for

parishes (CIC can. 216). This guideline was often carried to extremes which were not the Church's ideal. Nevertheless, territorial parishes, particularly in the less highly urbanized centers, proved to be fruitful sources of Christian faith and spiritual life. The same may be said of those parishes that have often been called "national," as they provided a great bulwark of the faith for the immigrants to our own country.

The relation of the parish to communal spiritual life makes it subject to social changes, to modern urbanization, to industrialization, to mobility of the population, to great diversity in education, culture, work, profession. In fact, today our urban population is composed of most diverse groups differing in mentality, sense of values, and types of behavior. To this we must add changes of attitude referred to above. Under these social conditions the pastoral ministry may and must assume a great diversity of forms and functions. The result would be the "personal" parish.

> There are . . . communities (whose number and whose importance in the overall pastoral work of the dioceses are determined by sociological circumstances) formed on the basis of the personal characteristics of the members. Territorially, they have no other demarcation than that of the bishopric itself. These are the personal parishes. Both forms of community are in principle legitimate and of equal rank, and share directly in the episcopal authority. (SM, vol. 4, art. *Parish,* p. 338)

It seems to this writer that conditions themselves should determine the nature of the parish, and that current legislation could be adapted to this purpose. In many areas the territorial parish should take up the functions of the personal or special-group parish. In some parts of the world, where the population has a Catholic background but few churches, the pastors must move about and reach the people from some very simple and humble center. Huge building programs may be an alien concept. But to brush aside the territorial parish with its buildings as a brick-and-mortar church is completely unrealistic.

Our St. John's is ample evidence of the great social, educational, spiritual good effected here, the material bearing witness to the faith and love of the parishioners.

Some parochial functions seem to demand at least certain elements of the territorial parish, though not necessarily the most rigid legalistic forms. The territorial parish

> gives a real, visible, and independent home — not linked to the goal of secular organizations — to the local

Church, in the living space of a concrete society. Without such a home, the Church might be mistaken for a purely other-worldly, spiritual and esoteric community. This incarnational aspect of God's salvific work is, of course, not complete when a church is built and a pastor provided. The laity bring to the community "their own and the world's problems as well as questions concerning human salvation all of which should be examined and resolved by common deliberation" (*Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity*, art. 10).

Since people normally go in fact to the nearest church, the celebration of the Eucharist must be possible in places accessible to all, in substitution for its celebration where the bishop presides. If the Eucharistic community were deprived of a territorial element understood in this sense, it would run the risk of dissolving into conventicles, built up round particular human interests.

The territorial parish represents the fellowship of the people of God as it surpasses all human differences. It has an integrating function, which must then, however, be visible and credible in the organization of parish life, and which has its importance not only for the Church but also for civil society (cf. *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity,* art. 10)

When the territorial parish thus makes the Eucharist "the center and culmination of the whole life of the Christian community" (*Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office,* art. 30) and links it with the concrete historical totality of the people of the local Church, the territorial parish has a privileged place in the various pastoral arrangements. And then its tasks rightly include the creation of the conditions for such celebration and the promotion of its direct and primary effects: the basic preaching of the word, as the inward element of the Eucharistic celebration; and practice of the fundamentals of Christian life. Here again it is important to bring home to the laity their active role in the Church's mission (cf. *Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity,* art. 30,

These theological reflections, we hope, will afford us an insight into the deeper meaning of our parochial history. They should justify the claim that our history of St. John's is "Salvation History." And equally pertinent, the pastoral ministry at St. John's, is in harmony with the ideals of the Second Vatican Council and with sound theology.



PART TWO

THE JUBILEE STORY

1947 — *THE EVENTS* — 1972

The Methodology

The writer has attempted to escape both horns of the dilemma confronting every writer of parish history: *either* follow a mere chronological sequence of fact and event with monotonous repetition and little unity, *or* harvest a sheaf of essays cutting across the years with little inner coherence other than the theme of the history itself. In our attempt to avoid the dilemma, we follow a largely chronological order in the first section, with stress of many fixed dates and facts though always allowing for stress, expansion, coordination of some items, and occasional extended comment. The recurring events may be mentioned only one or the other time, and be placed in a context which seems to suit the writer's general purpose. This is our Part Two — *The Events.*

In the next section we follow a topical order, presenting the history of special areas of importance, which we call Part Three: *The Special Areas.* The final section or Part *Four* presents *The Year of Jubilee* 1972 — in verbal and pictorial review — and then our *Epilogue.*

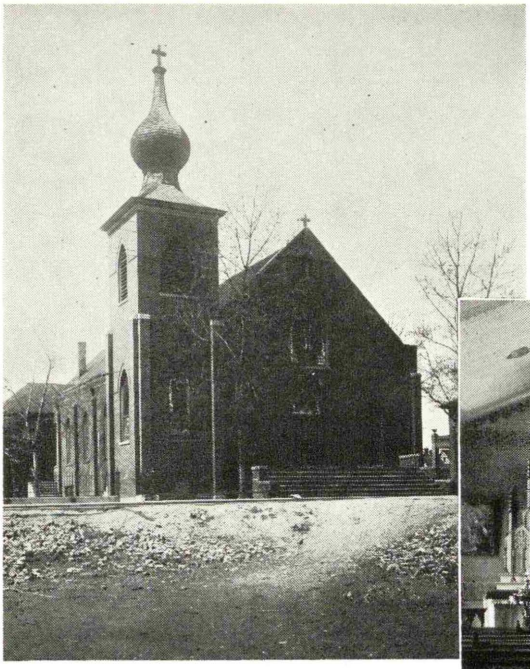
The writer shall not contest the criticism that the decision as to what is to be included or what is to be expanded seems rather arbitrary. In advance the writer pleads guilty of being guided largely by his subjective preferences.

A final point: the dates given in our history are largely (not entirely) dependent on those found in the *Paranews.* They refer either to the time of the event itself, or to the date of the publication.

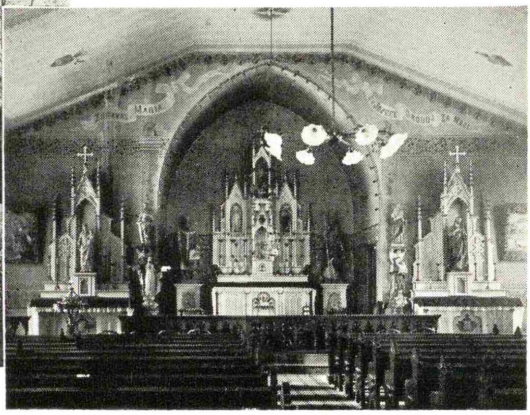
A Preamble

The Jubilee Year 1947 was reported in the previous jubilee book, *Fifty Years of Grace.* As we turn to the years ahead, we must first call attention to changes of scene and action. Father Joseph Marling, provincial of the Society of the Precious Blood, becomes auxiliary bishop of Kansas City and is succeeded by Seraphin Oberhauser as provincial. Both will be referred to in these pages, for in different capacities they will be linked to St. John's. Meanwhile, Fathers John Kostik and John Wilson take up their pioneer apostolate in Chile, and enjoy a favored position in the mind and heart of priests and laity of St. John's.

Other changes, some of them profound and far reaching, must be noted as we turn forward to the diamond jubilee of 1972 and outward to the Church in this modern world. For this is the quarter century of Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI and Vatican II. These years are the most dynamic in the Church's history. They are the years of the new liturgy, laity participation, and ecumenism, years of startling boldness, rich theological enterprise, and, regretfully, defiance of authority, self assertion, loosening of religious and moral bonds; years of international crisis and conflict, of the Korean and Vietnam wars, of new frontiers in the very structure and expansion of our universe!



Church
1914 to 1931

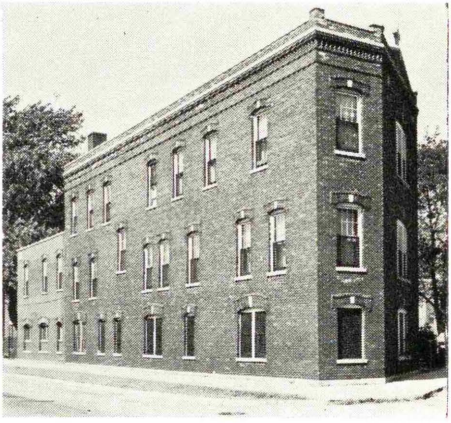




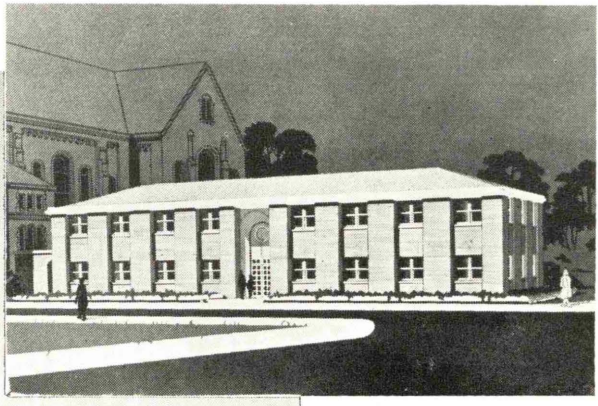
School
1903 to 1950



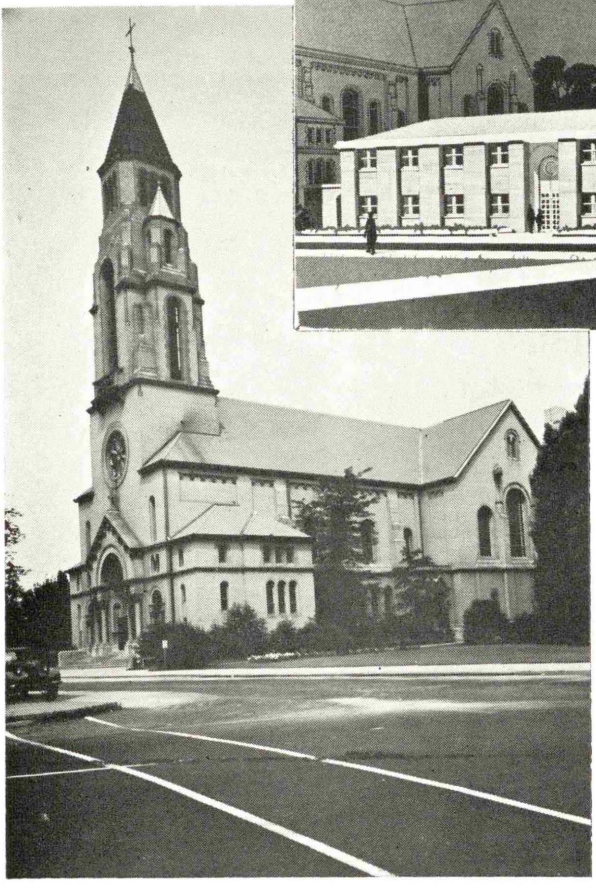
Rectory 1905 to 1967



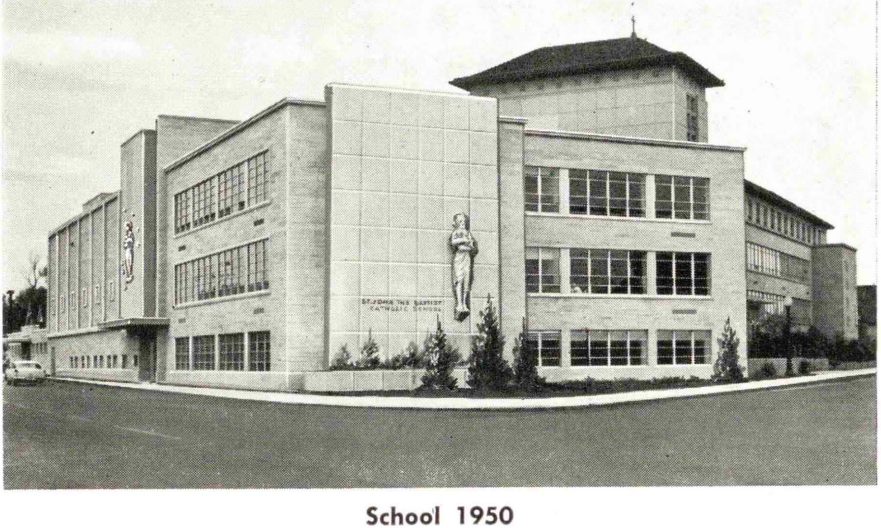
Convent 1916 to 1951



Rectory
1967



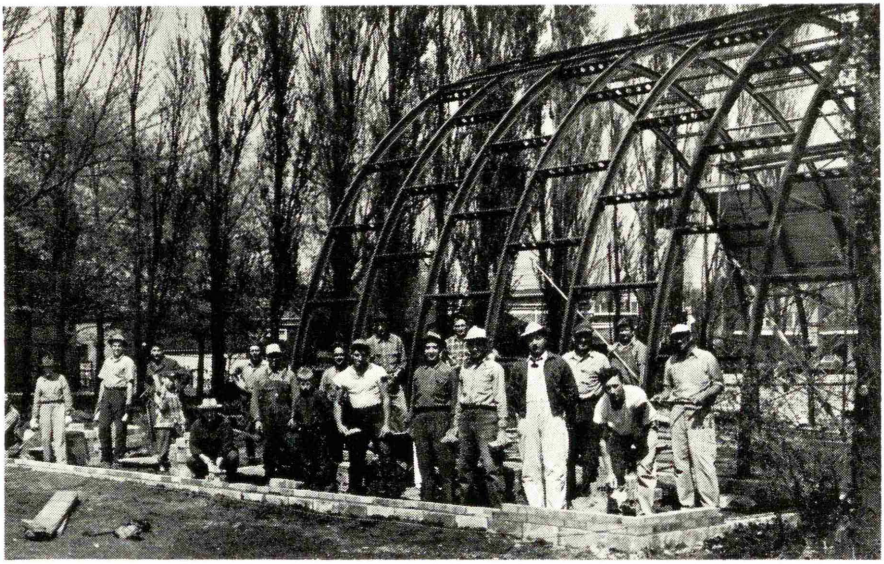
Church
1931



School 1950



REMEMBER THESE?



1948 — Decade of Expansion: New School — 1958

The first years of exapnsion found in the pastor, Father John Lefko, a leader admirably suited to the task. For many years interested in modern church and school construction, he had formulated creative plans for a new school according to modern patterns, as he prepared for a graduate degree at the University of Indiana shortly before his appointment as pastor of St. John. He now envisaged a reality concretely exemplifying these ideas. In this light we could have anticipated the announcement in the *Paranews* of June 20, 1948: "Work on the new school begins this week." (The bids had come in June 1.)

The plans were carefully drawn up. Already on January 18th this note appears in *Paranews*:

> The working drawings on the school are progressing right along now. We know definitely now that the new school will not interfere with the present school building . . . Our children will not lose a day of school either at the end of the school year or next fall (they'll love that) because of the construction work. A lot of details are being worked on right now. Time is pressing. We need lots of prayers . . . your prayers.

Less than a month later the old gym which stood in the way of the new building was being demolished. Excavation for the new foundation will follow (July 11, 1948). Progress was so rapid that *Paranews* of September 19 offered this wry comment:

> It's been a whole two weeks (*sic*) since we last informed our curbstone contractors of the progress of the "School of Tomorrow." As you can see, Men, the front wall is climbing up and getting its coat of waterproofing. When that's done, we're ready to start the pillars which will form the skeleton of the structure.

And then followed the unfailing gesture of the outstretched hand:

> And since we are on the subject, a loan of your war bonds will strengthen that skeleton and make you a pillar of the Church.

A Background Note

Though not an integral part of St. John's history as such, the following *Paranews* item (June 27) will help to explain the interest of the Precious Blood Fathers in excellence of school and church building.

The National Catholic Building Convention and Exhibition to be held in Stevens Hotel (now Conrad Hilton), Chicago, begins June 30.

This convention, an enormous success, was held under the auspices of St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) and the leadership of Father Lefko. Unfortunately, like so many fair projects, the convention could not be continued.

Change of Assistants

Especially significant were the official assignments made this year by Father Oberhauser, provincial. In January Father Edward Moorman was transferred from Whiting, where he had been since September of 1946, to Crewe, Va. In this same month Father Cyril Ernst, former assistant at St. John's, was named pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Wapakoneta, Ohio. Interesting to note, Father Herbert Eilerman, who replaced Father Moorman at St. John's, was later to become pastor at Wapakoneta.

Scholastic Progress in 1948

In the *Paranews* of January 25 there is the report that the Home and School Association (H.S.A.) — which is very active all these years — in its meeting in Benedict Hall (the church basement) discussed the question of a children's library. "A collection was taken up at which seventeen dollars were netted for new books."

On February 26 Father Henry Martin of St. Joseph's College, Calumet Center, explained St. John's comprehensive testing program. The announcement of the meeting suggests that not only the mothers but also "the fathers, who are free that afternoon, should be present."

From *Paranews*, November 7: There is no bookstore in Whiting. So, H.S.A. brings to St. John's a BOOK FAIR for four days, November 18 - 21. All types of books will be on sale, particularly a wide selection of children's books. If you are having difficulty with your Christmas list and don't know what to choose for gifts, come down and pick out some books.

The book fair becomes part of parish history these next twenty five years.

Benedict's Best Actor/Actress Award

This *Benny* award was a constant incentive to St. John's fine troop of actors and actresses. The award presentation was an annual affair, similar to *Oscar*. Hollywood

had nothing on Whiting when it came to the suspense of "Who will win?"

A Special Religious Event

The consecration of Bishop Clement Geiger at Cincinnati, Ohio, was an occasion of great rejoicing in the Society of the Precious Blood. This humble and dedicated priest of the Germanic Province of the Society was consecrated for the arduous Brazilian missions on May 19, 1948. Bishop Geiger remained at his post for twenty-three years, when he resigned. His successor was Father Erich Kraeutler, consecrated June 27, 1971, at Feldkirch, Austria.

Oplatky

Filled with tender sentiment was the custom of blessing the unleavened bread called *oplatky* every Christmas. It was usually imported from Slovakia, blessed by the priests and distributed. It could also be blessed by the father in the home. In appreciation of the sweetness of the Infant of Bethlehem who made all things sweet, it was eaten with honey.

1949 Kiddie Karnival 1949

Positively the newest thing to hit St. John's with plenty of flash and color is Kiddie Karnival. Such is the report of *Paranews* for January 2 and January 9. This January 8-9 party for the children offers everything from Ringling Brothers but the big fat elephants: "There's gonna be freaks (*sic*), clowns, attractions and refreshments. Look for the custom-built trolley, the Kiddie Express, for thrills in rides for kiddies." It was all an exuberant success under the guiding hand of Mrs. Lillian Jefchak.

The Legion of Mary

Though it has never yielded to the vernacular and seems to use a military nomenclature, the Legion is probably the most spiritual of all the parish societies. As of February 7, 1949, this spiritual group has held its 300th meeting. It now numbers at St. John 250 auxiliaries, 15 active members.

Appointment to St. John's

Father John Blasick, bearing the appointment of assistant, arrived at St. John's on April 19, 1949. This jovial, deeply spiritual priest is a key figure in the activity of the parish in the following years.

Confirmation at St. John's by Bishop Marling on June 5.

The Building

Gradually the splendor of the concept of the new school in its practical value for the entire parish has become evident to everyone. Now as the steel "has gone up" and the plasterers are busy — the painters will soon be at work — hopes run high: St. John's School is a parable to all the elementary schools in Indiana. And above all to parish-center schools which serve many parochial needs and desires. A fine September 5th radio broadcast on WJOB proclaimed *The School of Tomorrow, Today.*

Money and Pravda

The growing pains at St. John's were not lessened by the constant plea for financial help. It does make for monotonous reading in *Paranews* when the writer has the copies piled high like mail order catalogues. But there was criticism from a most unexpected source. *Paranews* of September 25, 1949 quotes the Russian journal, *Pravda,* citing St. John's parish, Whiting, as a horrible example of priestly conspiracy with the bankers to exploit the "working people":

> How the Catholic people are working for the Church in the United States and making many sacrifices is clearly shown by the parish of St. John the Baptist in Whiting, Indiana. It is a Slovak parish. This parish in 1939 had to collect over $45,000.00 from 400 families for the mere upkeep of the Church and the rectory. This is the equivalent of 2,225,000 Czechoslovakian crowns. And today with the high cost of living in America these same 400 families must do more and more for the parish, for beyond this $45,000.00 they also liquidate a huge debt on a new church. And this amounts to over four million crowns, about $80,000.00. And as in Whiting so everywhere else in the United States the bankers have enslaved the majority of the Catholic churches.

Jubilee Jednota

The First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union, Branch 81, celebrates its Golden Jubilee with a special Mass on October 2, 1949. The Union has been one of the great sustaining forces of parish activity since St. John's founding.

Dedication

The great event of 1950 was the solemn dedication of the Parochial Center by Bishop Noll at 1:30 P.M. on March 5. After the services the building was open for inspection.

The following Sunday afternoon, March 12, there were tours of inspection conducted every half hour. For this occasion the Very Rev. Herbert Kramer, moderator general of the Society of the Precious Blood, sent the following message:

> My very sincere congratulations for the splendid spirit of cooperation and sacrifice that has made this grand work possible. Its true value can be appreciated only if one bears in mind the throng of children who will receive their instruction and direction that will set them on the secure road to eternity. May divine Providence continue to bless this work that it has so signally favored so far.

The dedicatory pamphlet gives a picture of the planners. In the center of the group is Father John Lefko. With him are the associate pastors: Father Louis Telegdy, Herbert Eilerman, Edward Homco, and John Blasick. The architect is A. M. Strauss, the builder is Roy Clark, Jr., the superintendent, Howard C. Buckel. There is also a picture of the venerable prelate, The Most Reverend John Francis Noll, bishop of Ft. Wayne, and the Very Reverend Seraphin Oberhauser, provincial of the Society of the Precious Blood.

The center is too familiar to need a detailed description here. Those of us who see it in all its practical use and value will realize how the dream and plan of Father Lefko became a reality through the prayer, the work, the generous giving of St. John's people. A few years before this dedication the pastor wrote of his plan in the following terms:

> We have always thought that it was poor administration to erect a building and spend a lot of money from which full utility was not derived. To put up a building that is going to be used from 8:30 in the morning till 3:30 in the afternoon, five days a week and some thirty weeks out of the year by one fifth of the parish was not good planning. If the initial investment is going to be worth while, then plan a building that can be used from 8:30 a.m. to midnight, seven days a week, all the year round by the entire parish. (*Church Property Administration,* Sept.-Oct. 1946)

The writer recalls the thrill of the first tours of the new center (interesting to recall, the name *Panel Room* comes from Father Francis Hehn, treasurer of the Precious Blood Society). It was the thrill of discovery. We can imagine the pleasure of the parents and the teachers on the first day of school. Rather prosaically, *Paranews* of September 10, 1950 refers to it:

> Speaking of books reminds me of school. 650 little pairs of feet eagerly tramped into school last Tuesday for the first day of school. Manned by a large new staff and housed in the latest up-to-the-minute surroundings, our school is a far cry from the little Red Schoolhouse of Yesteryear.

Mr. John Kaminsky, as general supervisor and inspector, had done an excellent job of directing all details of the huge project to perfection.

The new center furnishes attractive space for every variety of parish activity. The Kindergarten Room is a sheer delight.

The Panel Room is booked for months in advance. First event on the long list: the 3rd Annual Award Dinner sponsored by the Home and School Association on March 23, 1950, with Emil Sitko, Notre Dame football star, as guest speaker. April bookings included a Parish Dance, music by Johnnie Marlowe's orchestra; wedding receptions for Martin and Gloria (Darby) O'Drobinak, and for David and Norma (Pulliam) Hajduch; and the Jr. Rosary Society's Card Party and Style Show — a capacity crowd . . . Mrs. Paul Krause prepared the food for the Panel Room's first wedding shower, May 11 . . . and late in the year (December 18) Arch Ward, noted sports writer, and Jim Ameche were stellar attractions at the St. John Benefit Dinner. Father Lefko was especially pleased that he could quote Arch Ward as saying, "I'll do anything for the kids at St. John."

Paranews of September 10: Benedict D'Angelo is the new assistant pastor and moderator of H.S.A.

On December 8 the Daughters of Isabella, Whiting Circle 81, presented Winter Wonderland at the Community Center. There was abundant entertainment.

Auxiliary Bishop of Ft. Wayne

On September 19, 1950, the Most Reverend Leo Pursley was consecrated the first auxiliary bishop of Ft. Wayne, in the Immaculate Conception Cathedral by the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, the Most Reverend Amleto Cicognani. Co-consecrators were John Francis Noll, bishop of Ft. Wayne and Joseph Marling, auxiliary bishop of Kansas City. The sermon was preached by John F. O'Hara, bishop of Buffalo, former president of Notre Dame.

Penthouse and Quonset — 1951

Father Lefko had a penchant for the grand term. The month of Mary in 1951 marked the completion of the Sisters

top-floor convent, which he called the *Convent Penthouse.* Less grandiose was the *Quonset Gym* announced by the *Paranews* of April 15. This quaint and practical structure occupied the site of the present parish home. With a modesty as simple as the structure itself, the *Paranews* item reads:

> This will not be a pretentious structure, but it will serve a purpose which we consider most essential for the training of our youth. We shall try to erect this building on the old Swartout site at a minimum cost. A number of parish mechanics, carpenters, fitters, painters, and masons have already volunteered their services . . . It is this spirit of cooperation . . . which has made and is making St. John's what it is. We thank God for it daily.

A Chronicle of Special Events in 1951

April 4: School bus is purchased for St. John's School. It has a history all its own, and problems of payments, routes, etc. But if there is a problem of drivers, the Fathers supply for weeks on end.

May 13: The Convent is blessed.

July 16: Summer School begins. This is directed to the care and instruction of children from the age of four to six.

October: On the 14th Hoosier Boys Town was dedicated. Governor Schricker was present. On the 25th Senior Daughters of Mary celebrated their silver jubilee.

December: On the 2nd the Legion of Mary offers baby-sitting service for parents attending Mass at St. John.

Father Telegdy Leaves

The *Paranews* of June 10, 1951, announces in sports idiom that Father Louis Telegdy is being replaced by Father Edward Kalmenek.

> It's a beautiful day at the ball park at St. John's. But wait! The boss is calling for time. He is making a change in the line up. Yes, there comes Father "Lou" Telegdy off the diamond. There is a burst of applause for one of the all-star players. For the past nine years he's been batting out hits for St. John's. The crowd is still voicing thanks and appreciation as Father "Lou's" sub steps onto the field. It's Father Edward Kalmanek, the newly ordained priest. The team and parish crowd give him an encouraging cheer as he starts working out here at St. John's — his first major league assignment.

The announcer continues: We hate to see Father "Lou" leave, but "orders from his superiors require that we let him go." All this sounds today almost like an alien idiom, but it reflects the true spirit of the apostolate and dedication to God's call wherever it leads. Father Telegdy was assigned to Richmond, Virginia. There was a farewell gathering in the Panel Room on June 10.

Quonset Gym Again

With surprizing rapidity the work on the Quonset Gym proceeded, due to the cooperative industry of many volunteers. On January 17, 1952, the youngsters started basketball practice. And in harmony with the unique integralism of St. John's which required a pastoral approach also for sports, the gym was "blessed" and there was an "open house" on January 20.

> This afternoon the ceremonies for the blessing of your gym will begin. No dignitaries or notables have been invited. It is intended to make this a homey affair. The work was done by our own and now at its completion it will be our own. Immediately after the blessing we shall have open house till 5:00 P.M. for you and your friends; and we do want you to come. (Two big games are scheduled for the day.)

A Comment But Not Sports

Some ardent advocates of work can't see why anyone should walk for miles over green acres just to tear the turf and drive a tiny ball around. Couldn't they find more useful exercise, swishing off weeds, for example, or propelling a mower, wielding a sickle, or even picking berries? Some such notion might have entered the minds of those who saw volunteers working to build the arena of play, "The men who so courageously worked in the terrific heat to pour the concrete in front of the gym saved the parish over three hundred dollars" and furthered the cause of physical fitness through play and sport in the gym. (*Paranews,* July 6, 1952)

Paranews: A Chronicle — 1952

The Annual Forum offers such speakers as Wm. Moorehead, *Hollywood in Focus,* and L. Budens, *Men Without Faces.* (Budens brought back to the Church after years of allegiance to Communism, due to the zeal of Fulton Sheen).

First class in wood work on April 22; fine display on October 12. (Woodwork shop is a splendid artistic feature in

parish activity throughout these years.) . . . May 6: Confirmation by Bishop Pursley . . . Father Conroy, of Our Sunday Visitor youth section, delivers talk, May 14 . . . Crowning of Mary, May 25 . . . Memorial Mass in the cemetery on May 30. Beautiful annual sacred event . . . Miss Mary Buksar establishes Nursery School, announced on June 22 for children 3 to 6 . . . Election of delegates for the National Convention of St. George Society, June 25 . . . Legion of Mary Summer School has over 40 children this July . . . The ever recurring Bible Week attracts attention. This year it is September 25 to October 5. Under auspices of the NCCW, Whiting District, there are two fine window displays to promote interest . . . As of September 28, 13 boys from St. John are at St. Joseph College (Rensselaer), 18 boys from the parish are preparing for the priesthood in five different seminaries . . . Father James Birkley is guest speaker for the H.S.A. meeting on October 9.

Father Kalmanek Has New Appointment

You may have noticed the new assistant around the parish. We welcome newly-ordained Father Augustine Hanchak of Homestead, Pa. His predecessor, Father Edward Kalmanek, has been transferred to Flint, Michigan. We thank him for his deep spiritual concern in his pastoral work during the year he was among us. (*Paranews,* June 22)

Drama Club: Accolade From O. S. V.

Under the rubric "Under the Footlights," the theatre critic of *Our Sunday Visitor* had high praise for the St. John Drama Club:

> They will keep putting on fine productions, only if the people of the Whiting area want them. It baffles me why people will spend much more money to see a stage play in Chicago, or even a movie, when they have such a wonderful group, as the St. John Drama Club. The drama club is doing its duty giving you an opportunity to spend an evening enjoying yourself with such fine entertainment. Do your duty, support them.

Changing the Guard — 1953

The building years continue in this year of change in pastorate at St. John's. On July 19 the announcement was made at the Sunday Masses that Father Lefko was to be transferred. After fifteen years as assistant and pastor, he was replaced by Father Gabriel Brenkus, well-known mis-

sionary. The following Thursday there was an informal farewell gathering in the Panel Room.

Another change was in prospect: Father Benedict D'Angelo was assigned to St. Anthony Church, Park Falls, where he was to report on August 18. He was to be replaced by Father Michael Homco whose name is linked to St. John's by the ties of family and predilection. Father Michael came from Detroit on August 21.

A Few Events in Brief

H.S.A. sponsors a card and bingo party, following a style show featuring the latest in millinery. The original chapeaux will be worn by local models (March 25) . . . Father John Duffy, national chaplain of the American Legion, is guest speaker of Whiting Post 80, on May 15 . . . Bishop Danehy, M.M., of Bolivia, preached at all the Masses, May 24 . . . October 18-25 has been set aside by the bishops as Youth Week. Stress is to be laid on the youth projects in the parish and their problems. The final conference will be held on October 25 at Fort Wayne. Two delegates will attend from each parish in the diocese. "Non-delegates" are free to attend, but will have to "pay" their own expenses.

Priesthood

The theme of priesthood is uppermost in the events of 1953 and 1954. In the spring of 1953, Father Joseph Semancik offers his first Mass at St. John's. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception, Father Edward Homco celebrates the tenth anniversary of his ordination. In 1954 three deacons are raised to the priesthood in St. John's Church. And in Rome Gaspar del Bufalo, priest and confessor, is canonized. Both years are in a special way placed under the mantle of Mary, the Immaculate Mother of priests.

The theme of priesthood has always been central in the Church. In the Fourth Century John Chrysostom, golden-tongued bishop of Constantinople and Doctor of the Church, eloquently extolled its power; in his day Thomas a Kempis exalted it in the *Imitation of Christ*. The recent pontiffs prepared the way for the magnificent pronouncement of Vatican II in the *Constitution on the Church*, which is a model for our current thought on the theme.

> Christ the Lord and High Priest is himself taken from among men. Out of the new people who are baptized and anointed by the Holy Spirit he fashioned a people and priests unto God his Father. All these are conse-

crated a spiritual house and a holy priesthood. As disciples of Christ, they offer themselves as living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. This priesthood of the faithful in its own special way participates in the one priesthood of Christ and is always bound up with the ministerial priesthood which molds and rules the priestly people by sacred power. The ministerial priest given this power acts in the person of Christ and brings about the Eucharistic sacrifice and offers it to God in the name of all the people. By virtue of their royal priesthood all the faithful join in the offering of the Eucharist. They exercise that priesthood by receiving the sacraments, by prayer and thanksgiving, by the witness of a holy life, by self denial and active charity.

By power of the sacrament of order and in the image of Christ the Eternal High Priest, the ministerial priest is consecrated to preach the Gospel, shepherd the faithful and celebrate divine worship as a true priest of the new testament. Partakers of the function of Christ, the Sole Mediator, the priests — on their level of ministry — announce the divine word to all. Most of all in the Eucharistic Liturgy do they exercise this sacred function. By acting in the person of Christ and proclaiming his mystery, they join the offering of the faithful to the sacrifice of their Head. Until the Coming of the Lord they make him present and apply in the sacrifice of the Mass the one Sacrifice of the new testament, namely the sacrifice of Christ offering himself once and for all to his Father, as a spotless Victim.

For the penitent or ailing among the faithful, priests exercise fully the ministry of reconciliation and alleviation and present the needs and prayers of the faithful to God. In exercising the function of Christ as Shepherd and Head, they gather together God's family as a brotherhood of one mind and lead them in the Spirit through Christ to God the Father. In the midst of the flock they adore him in spirit and truth. They labor in word and doctrine believing what they have read and meditated upon in the Law of the Lord, teaching what they believe and practicing what they teach. (Adapted from #10 and #28, *Constitution on the Church*)

The Ordinations

On May 1, Feast of Sts. Philip and James, 1953, Archbishop John Francis Noll ordained Joseph Semancik priest in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at Ft. Wayne.

The next year, also on May 1, the prelate raised three deacons of his diocese to the priesthood in St. John's Church: Louis Letko, John J. Charlebois, and Leonard J. Lukaszewski.

In the impressive ceremonies of ordination, which take place within the Mass, the archdeacon announces the names of those to be ordained, who then come forward to lie prostrate before the altar during the chanting of the Litany of the Saints. Towards the end of the litany the bishop rises from his chair, and with his mitre on and holding his crozier in his left hand, prays:

> That you would vouchsafe to bless (✚) these elect.
>
> R. We beseech You, hear us.
>
> That You would vouchsafe to bless (✚) and sanctify (✚) these elect.
>
> R. We beseech You, hear us.
>
> That You would vouchsafe to bless (✚), sanctify (✚) and consecrate (✚) these elect.
>
> R. We beseech You, hear us.

For the rite of ordination the archdeacon calls to the deacons:

> Let those who are to be ordained to the order of priesthood come forward.

He then presents them to the bishop with the words:

> Most Reverend Father, our Holy Mother the Catholic Church, asks that you ordain the deacons here present to the functions of the priesthood.

The bishop asks:

> Do you know them to be worthy?

The archdeacon answers:

> As far as human fragility allows me to know, I both know and bear witness that they are worthy of the charge of this office.

Then the bishop says:

> Thanks be to God.

The bishop then addresses the assembly, clergy and laity, asking their mind regarding the fitness of the candidates. Next he admonishes the candidates themselves: "Heavenly wisdom, approved morals, and a long observance

of righteousness" should commend those chosen for the office of priest.

Then follows the ordination to priesthood by the imposition of hands. The candidates kneel before the bishop who stands with the mitre on his head and places both hands on each candidate in silence. Thereupon the assembled priests also impose their hands upon the priests-to-be. Then bishop and priests extend their right hands over the group.

His right hand still extended, the bishop prays that the heavenly gifts be multiplied. Then he begs for the blessing of the Holy Spirit and the strength of priestly grace. Then follows the sacred ordination preface which concludes with the actual ordination prayer:

> Bestow, then, we beseech you, Almighty Father, the dignity of the priesthood upon these your servants. Renew in them the spirit of holiness, that they may receive from you, O God, this office next to ours in dignity, and that the example of their lives may be for others an incentive to virtue.

According to the Apostolic Constitution *Sacrament of Order,* the imposition of hands and this prayer are the essential rite by which the deacon is made a priest. The entire rite, however, with all its beauty and splendor gives us the context of the essential sacramental action. As the ceremonies continue the hands of the newly ordained are anointed with the consecrated oil and they then touch the chalice and paten with the wine and host, as the bishop recites the words: "Receive power to offer sacrifice to God and to celebrate Mass, as well for the living as for the dead, in the name of the Lord. Amen." The entire ordination, as noted, is in the setting or context of Solemn Liturgy. And in the offering the new priests now join by concelebration.

The solemnity closes with the kiss of peace, promise of obedience, episcopal blessing and final admonition.

Vatican II: A Comment

Close to the heart of priesthood is service to God's People. Its very dignity relates to the authority of service. This is the concept of Vatican II which applies to our ordination in St. John's on May 1, 1954:

> Inasmuch as it is connected with the episcopal order, the priestly office shares in the authority by which Christ himself builds up, sanctifies, and rules his Body. Therefore, while it indeed presupposes the sacraments of Christian initiation (baptism and confirmation), the

> sacerdotal office of priests is conferred by that special sacrament through which priests, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are marked with a special character and are so configured to Christ the Priest that they can act in the person of Christ the Head. Since in their own measure priests participate in the office of the apostles, God gives them the grace to be ministers of Christ Jesus among the people. They shoulder the sacred task of the gospel so that the offering of the people may be made acceptable through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. For through the apostolic proclamation of the gospel, the People of God is called together and assembled so that when all who belong to this People have been sanctified by the Holy Spirit, they can offer themselves as "a sacrifice, living, holy, pleasing to God" (Rom 12:1). Through the ministry of priests, the spiritual sacrifice of the faithful is made perfect in union with the sacrifice of Christ, the sole Mediator. Through the hands of priests and in the name of the whole Church, the Lord's sacrifice is offered in the Eucharist in an unbloody and sacramental manner until He himself returns. (*Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests,* No. 2)

To this sacramental and unbloody sacrifice we now turn. Two days after his ordination, May 1, 1953, Father Joseph Semancik offered his first Mass at St. John's Church. It was Sunday May 3, a bright sunny day, but quite cold.

According to a note from Father Semancik: "Father John Lefko, the pastor, was archpriest. Father William Peil was deacon, Louis Letko, then a subdeacon was subdeacon. Father Edward Homco was master of ceremonies. My sister, Jane Frances, was a flower girl. John Semancik, a cousin, carried the chalice. The reception was in the Panel Room, one of the first events held there.

"Father Joseph Kostik, brother of John, who was then in Chile, gave the sermon in Slovak. Father A. J. Junk, principal of Catholic Central High School, spoke in English. The sermons were very long, about forty-five minutes each."

1954

Father Letko's First Mass

On Sunday May 2, 1954, Father Letko offered his first Mass at St. John's. Father Brenkus, the pastor, was archpriest, Father Anthony Letko, brother of the celebrant, was deacon, Father Joseph Semancik was subdeacon. Father John Lefko preached the English homily, Father Clement

Mlynarovich preached in Slovak. The reception was held in the Panel Room.

Change of Assistant Pastors

Paranews of January 3, 1954 announces the transfer of Father Hanchak. In December of the previous year he had been called to LaCrosse, Wisconsin, to assist one of the Fathers who was ill. Now he is assigned there permanently, and is to be replaced on January 5 by Father Joseph Hajduch. He is a native son of the parish, not unfamiliar with the Slovak tongue, a point which makes his approach and work very acceptable. Later in the year Father Blasick was assigned to St. Martin's, Cheviot, Ohio. He was replaced by Father Stephen Almasy.

On Idiom, Authority, Pastoral Concern

Since Vatican II there has been some raising of eyebrows over such terms as *assistant pastor* and *authority of pastors, of bishops.* If we are faulted on such points, we wish to call attention to the company we keep.

> Keeping in mind the fullness of the sacrament of order which the bishop enjoys, priests must respect in him the authority of Christ, the Chief Shepherd. They must therefore stand by their own bishop in sincere charity and obedience. This priestly obedience animated with a spirit of cooperation is based on the very sharing in the episcopal ministry which is conferred on priests both through the sacrament of order and the canonical mission. (Vatican II, *Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests,* No. 7)
>
> Pastors . . . cooperate with the bishop in a very special way, for as shepherds in their own right they are entrusted with the care of souls in a certain part of the diocese under the bishop's authority.
>
> As cooperators with the pastor, assistant pastors make an outstanding and active contribution to the pastoral ministry under the authority of the pastor. (Vatican II, *Decree on the Bishops' Pastoral Office* No. 30)

Gaspar del Bufalo Canonized

Paranews, May 23, announces that Father Brenkus is to go to Rome for the solemn proclamation of Pius XII that the Founder of the Society of the Precious Blood is a saint of the Church. On May 12 the moderator general of the So-

ciety sent the notice to the entire community: the decree of the Congregation of Rites (May 4, 1954) announcing the Holy Father's approval of the two miracles worked through the intercession of Blessed Gaspar has just been published. This is the official decisive act assuring the canonization.

The actual rite of canonization took place in the immense piazza in front of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. The following "impressions" are culled from the *Gasparian* (June 21, 1954) a Community information service published by the Precious Blood Society in America:

> We saw the workmen this morning (Saturday, June 12) constructing the throne for Pius XII in front of St. Peter's basilica. Here the Holy Father will preside tonight in the solemn rite of canonization . . . We (Father Diller writes this) left the house for St. Peter's at 4:00 P.M. . . . The crowd was gathering . . . like bees in a swarm, every body losing his identity in the mob . . . The papal procession moved through the great bronze doors down the colonnade over to the throne in the piazza. First came the religious of the city, then the pastors of the Roman parishes wearing stoles. Then came the prelates in the order of rank . . .

Pageantry burst upon us in full splendor in a surging sea of humanity. Men in bizarre colors were bearing huge banners like tents ten feet high, the banners of the ancient station churches of Rome. Following these were the painted banners of the blessed now to be canonized, gleaming bright and large (10' x 15') in the Italian sky. Last of all came the Holy Father borne aloft in the ancient *sedia gestatoria.* There were shouts of *viva il papa,* a clapping of hands, a waving of kerchiefs. When he arrived at the "throne," he asked us all to pray, *Orate,* at which the frenzied crowd knelt in silence. Then "arise," *Levate.*

The actual rite began with the formal request addressed to the pope for the declaration of canonization. The formal declaration is as follows:

> In honor of the Holy and Indivisible Trinity, for the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Catholic religion, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own — after mature deliberation, ever imploring the divine assistance, by the advice of our venerable brethren, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church, the Patriarchs, and Bishops present in the Eternal City, We decree and define as saints the blessed . . . Gaspar del

Bufalo . . . confessors . . . and we inscribe their names in the catalogue of the Saints, ordaining that their memory be celebrated . . . with devotion in the Universal Church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

There followed the chanting of the *Confiteor* and the papal blessing. The rite ended with the glorious *Te Deum* sung by the crowd as the procession moved into the great basilica.

On June 13 Cardinal Tisserant offered Holy Mass in the presence of the Holy Father in St. Peter's Basilica in honor of the newly canonized saints. That same day St. John's parish joined in the world wide celebration with a solemn Mass in honor of Gaspar. Later, on August 9, in welcoming Father Brenkus home, a solemn service with veneration of the saint's relic was held. In a social hour which followed there was a brief talk and a showing of the movies taken by Father on his trip to Rome and the continent.

The Et Cetera of 1954

N.C.C.W. meeting on January 13 enjoys book review by Dolores McCampbell of "The Little World of Don Camillo" . . . Father Clement Mlynarovich conducts Slovak mission, April 4 to 11 . . . there were ten weeks of summer activity for children 6 to 14 under auspices of CYO at Lake Wawasee . . . 763 children are enrolled in the eight grades at St. John's school. There are 105 in Kindergarten . . . Confirmation on October 22.

The Marian Year: Special Events

April 6: Marian pilgrimage to Notre Dame . . . The Marian novena (May 7-16) was conducted by Father Edwin Murphy, C.PP.S., former seminary professor . . . In autumn the beautiful Lourdes grotto constructed for the centenary of the proclamation of the Immaculate Conception was dedicated to Mary. On the feast day, December 8, the provincial of the Society celebrated the solemn high Mass in the evening. There followed the blessing of the statues, which were then borne in procession to the grotto. The grotto was blessed and the statues placed in position amid the chanting of beautiful Marian hymns.

St. John's also participated in Marian solemnities on August 15 at Noll Field. A Pontifical Mass followed the procession in which all the officers of all parish organizations in the deanery joined. An estimated 10,000 people participated.

Over 260,000 people crowded into Soldiers Field in Chicago for the Marian solemnities on the feast of the Nativity of Mary, September 8 . . . Thousands of pilgrims journeyed to the shrine of Our Lady of the Cape (Cap-de-la-Madeleine) in Three Rivers, Quebec, Canada, in this Marian year, an estimated 40,000 joining in a special pilgrimage.

Kaleidoscopic Review of 1955

On January 13, at the H.S.A. meeting, Father Brenkus shows the movies of his European tour . . . The parish joins in offering Mass for Archbishop Noll on the occasion of his eightieth birthday (January 25) . . . The new rectory has reached the planning stage (in desire). Funds collected amount to $38,000. (*Paranews,* January 30). February 6-13 is Bible Week: Ponder the sacred pages with God's message of salvation.

On March 28 ground is broken for the addition to the school . . . April 5: Church cleaning by a valiant band of men and women who love the beauty of God's house (a regular semi-annual event, far more important than our infrequent reference would seem to make it.) . . . April 20: Free Salk vaccination for first and second grade school children . . . May 8: Enrollment in the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Adults not yet enrolled welcomed . . . June 19: Annual visitation of the Third Order of St. Francis, by Father Amand, a Franciscan from Valparaiso . . . June 22: Servers' picnic at St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) . . . July 7: First session of the Legion of Mary Summer School for pre-school children. All little children invited. Mothers may attend.

Lay retreats at St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer): July 29-31, August 5-7, August 12-14 . . . August 7: Third annual pilgrimage to the Legion of Mary Shrine, St. John, Indiana . . . Hammond deanery day of recollection on August 18 at Assumption Church in Indiana Harbor . . . August 19: Fiftieth aniversary of the Junior Order of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union, Branch 58. Mass, followed by breakfast and program in Panel Room . . . August 22: Work begins on repairing of front steps and sidewalk of church . . . Last three days of August: Registration for kindergarten . . . September 11: School enrollment is 945, an increase of 103 over last year . . . Father Joseph Hajduch appointed moderator of the choir divisions.

November 8: Registration of seventh and eighth grade pupils for woodwork classes in Benedict Hall (the church basement) . . . No sewing classes for the eighth grade girls, for "we have no sewing teachers."

The Thanksgiving clothing drive (November 20-27) — an important annual charity . . . *Paranews* of December 4th announces that the auditorium in the new building will be called the "Marian Memorial Auditorium" — a token of the love of St. John's people for the Virgin Mary . . . The same issue appeals for used and damaged toys: C.Y.A. will pick them up and provide for their distribution to needy children. The issue also asks for prayers for the cause of Mother Theodore Guerin, Foundress of the Sisters of Providence . . . December 29: St. John's marks feast of St. Gaspar with solemn Mass. Thus ended year 1955.

Saint Gaspar, pray for us.

The Annus Mirabilis — 1956

We call 1956 a marvelous year, *annus mirabilis*. We now see the fulfillment of Father John Lefko's dream in the new construction, with gymnasium, auditorium, new classrooms and expanded social center.

Diocesan Statistics

Given by Bishop Pursley in *Our Sunday Visitor* and cited in *Paranews* for January 29, following are the Catholic statistics for the diocese of Ft. Wayne which includes St. John's: Catholic population in 1945 was 172,275; today it is 248,293. Infants baptized in 1945: 4,470. In 1955 the total number was 9,230. Enrollment in the parochial schools in 1945 was 20,141. Today it stands at 36,702.

Catholic Census Bureau

The *Paranews* of February 5 informs us that the bishops of Indiana have mapped out a Catholic Census and Catholic Information Bureau for the state.

Scout Award

On February 12 the highest Catholic scout honor was conferred on three young men of the parish: Dennis Hittle, Frank Pustek and James Kontol. Seventeen other Catholic awards were conferred on the Cub Scouts of the parish.

Pray for Our Pontiff, Pius XII

A special day of prayer, Sunday, March 11, for the great pontiff Pius XII, whose 80th birthday is celebrated on March 2. This is also the 17th aniversary of his election as pope.

Cardinal Welcomes Slovak Federation

The Slovak Catholic Federation of America held its convention in Chicago at the Sheraton Blackstone Hotel. Pontifical Mass was offered in the Holy Name Cathedral on May 16 by Cardinal Stritch, who spoke in fatherly tone. Referring to the plight of the Slovak motherland in 1956 he seemed truly prophetic:

> Twice the enemy sought to destroy the faith of the Slovak people, and today in your motherland suffering in silence for the cause of religion is the seed of martyrdom in the Church. As immigrants and descendants of the Slovak people your task is set for you, a task with honor. First, the light of your faith and charity must shine before the world and live up to the Catholic traditions of your country.
>
> Second, sacrifice is asked of you for the building of schools in which your children will receive the Catholic training essential to the faith, that same faith which demands the sacrifice of their lives in the motherland behind the iron curtain. (adapted from *Paranews,* May 20).

Father Homco Enters Air Corps

Father Michael Homco (*Paranews,* June 17) is joining the Air Corps. He is to be replaced by recently ordained Father Joseph Lazur. Though a native of Pennsylvania, Father Joseph is from the Whiting parish of Immaculate Conception. Father Mike requested there be no formal farewell.

A Thin Person

Paranews has its own multiverse personality — varying, it seems, with the pastoral approach. Those who make light of our national scandal of injustice in forms of theft, robbery, and destruction of property might reflect on the sense of outrage evident in the following:

> Last Friday, July 13, thieves made a desperate attempt to break into the safe where the sacred chalices are kept. They crawled through one of the small windows of the First Station of the Cross. It is the work of a THIN PERSON aided by others. Several times our vigil light stand money boxes have been broken open and the money stolen.

Such matters should be reported, the writer insists, and "parents have an obligation to check into the company their

children are keeping." (*Paranews* July 22) We call this laying it on the line!

We Mourn His Passing

On January 25 in 1955, St. John's had its muted celebration of the 80th birthday of John Francis Noll, its beloved archbishop. Seriously ill because of a stroke suffered in August, 1954, he still was said to be on the way to recovery. Now (July 31) it was announced that he had died.

John Francis Noll was born in 1875, ordained priest in 1898, consecrated bishop in 1925 to succeed Herman Joseph Alerding to the see of Ft. Wayne, made archbishop (personally) September 2, 1953. He was probably best known as founder and director of *Our Sunday Visitor* which first appeared in 1912, with a circulation of 35,000. Today O. S. V. is official publication for nine dioceses, with subscribers numbering 543,315 (Catholic Almanac, 1971). He also founded the *Family Digest* which reached a circulation of over 200,000. The *Acolyte* which he founded in 1925 became The *Priest* in 1945. It is still one of the most widely appreciated clergy reviews in the country.

Bishop Noll was one of the founders of the Catholic Press Association and a leader in the N.C.W.C.

He was chairman of the committee which raised funds for the construction of the great shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. As founder of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Victory he left to posterity a constant and living witness to the faith. Cardinal Stritch once said of him that his biography is necessarily the story of the Church in the United States over the past fifty years.

On the occasion of the silver jubilee celebration of bishop Noll's consecration as bishop, Cardinal Stritch referred to the prodigious work of the bishop:

> Even a cursory glance at his record makes us wonder how one man, even a great good man, could have done so many things for the Church. The answer is clear. Bishop Noll had one passion, one vehement passion, one almost boundless passion, and that is his love for the Church.

Now at the funeral Mass, the Cardinal speaks of him as a man of great faith and charity who did noble works because they are the works of the Savior. He likens the dead prelate to the Apostle Paul. Dwelling on the picture Paul gives of himself in his epistles, Cardinal Stritch said that the Apostle's dedication to Christ and his Church "helps us un-

derstand the long life and many activities of Archbishop Noll."

The press coverage of the ceremonies and the accompanying accounts of his life in the Church, the accounts of his interest in the C.Y.O., and the N.C.W.C., and the high school program in the diocese, all reveal the intimate relation of the archbishop with the Church in Lake County and particularly with St. John's. The fatherly concern of Archbishop Noll for St. John's parish in the lean years of depression and in the joyous years of progress is too well known to repeat here. Church and School of St. John's in Whiting are a tribute and a monument of his fatherly zeal.

> Come, blessed of my Father, possess the kingdom prepared for you. The veils of mortality are stripped away and now he sees Christ face to face — both of them priests, with an interest in priestly things. (R. Ginder, OSV, August 12, 1956. The quotations in this account are from this edition.)

The Marvellous Year 1956 — The Climax

The dream project of 1956 has become a reality. On November 11, twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the church, the new school building is officially dedicated by Bishop Pursley. Though uncertainty, anxiety, and delay haunted and harassed the workers at every turn, the beautiful structure is now completed. The local *Times-Graphic* headlined the event in its October 25th edition.

> A Marian dream-project becomes a reality for a Whiting parish. St. John the Baptist Church of Whiting broke ground for its much needed parochial addition in March of 1955. Roy C. Clark contracted the building designed by Strauss. Dedication of the completed new wing is scheduled for Sunday, November 11, at 2:30 P.M. Bishop Leo Pursley will bless the new addition. Open house will follow . . . Housed in the two floor construction are six classrooms, a school library, three soundproofed music rooms, three meeting rooms, a sewing room, added panel room storage and serving facilities, a refreshment center, two meeting rooms with adjoining kitchenette, the gymnasium and the Marian Memorial Auditorum . . .
>
> The general contour of the auditorium favors width rather than length. Four aisles facilitate seating for the latitudinal span of seats. The seating capacity is approximately 650. The seats are upholstered in avocado green

while a rose-toned salt and pepper tweed is used in the carpeting.

On November 17 and 18, the Marian Theatre Guild staged the spectacular *Premiere* in the new auditorium under the direction of John Gazda, guild president. He was assisted by Mary Mores and Alec Lazur. Prominent in the production were St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) glee club, under the direction of Father Lawrence Heiman, and the Whiting high school orchestra, under the direction of Adam Lesinsky. Thirty-three children from the third, fourth, and fifth grades of St. John's appear in a schoolroom scene from the "King and I."

The gymnasium had its special dedication on November 25, with the mayors of Hammond and Whiting sharing in brief speech making and taking the first basketball shot officially. Two games were scheduled: St. John's big team against East Chicago's Jockey Club (ex-college All Stars). St. John's eighth graders were pitted against St. Adalbert's team, as the real thriller of the evening.

Carved in Stone

St. John's in its brick and stone, its glass and steel, its spire thrown against the sky is its own poem of praise to God. A poem of faith and prayer, love and sacrifice, of dreams that reach out to the hearts of devout men and women who see the future through God's love for them and their children. Perhaps, in all this beauty the most striking figures are those carved in stone in the new school. One is John the Forerunner of Jesus, who pointed him out to all mankind: "Behold, the Lamb of God," and who still faces his Master's house. The other is the statue of Mary, who could sing: "All ages to come shall call me blessed."

The statue of Mary stands in the niche above the entrance to the Marian Theatre. The design is suggested by the vision of the Woman in the book of Revelations. Seven stars encircle the figure, (Rev. 12:1f speaks of twelve stars) carved in modernistic styling from Indiana limestone. The heroic full-round figures — the twelve-foot carving of Mary and the Child, and the fourteen-foot statue of John and the Lamb — are the work of Pedro Teran and his wife. Mrs. Teran was both model and helper. From small clay models plaster models scaled to half size were fashioned. An experienced stone carver, Joseph Slinkard, outlines upon the stone the three-dimensional figures he chisels. Then

with a pneumatic hammer he roughs out the figures. After Slinkard had finished there was roughly a quarter-inch to be chiseled from the statues. Then Teran and his wife worked with chisels and mallette to put on the finishing touches after they were mounted on the walls of the school. Such massive works in Bedford limestone, "will stand for years. They challenge an artist to do his best," says the sculptor. Mrs. Teran was the living model for the clay figure of the Madonna. (Adapted from Chicago American *Pictorial Living,* Dec. 30, 1956).

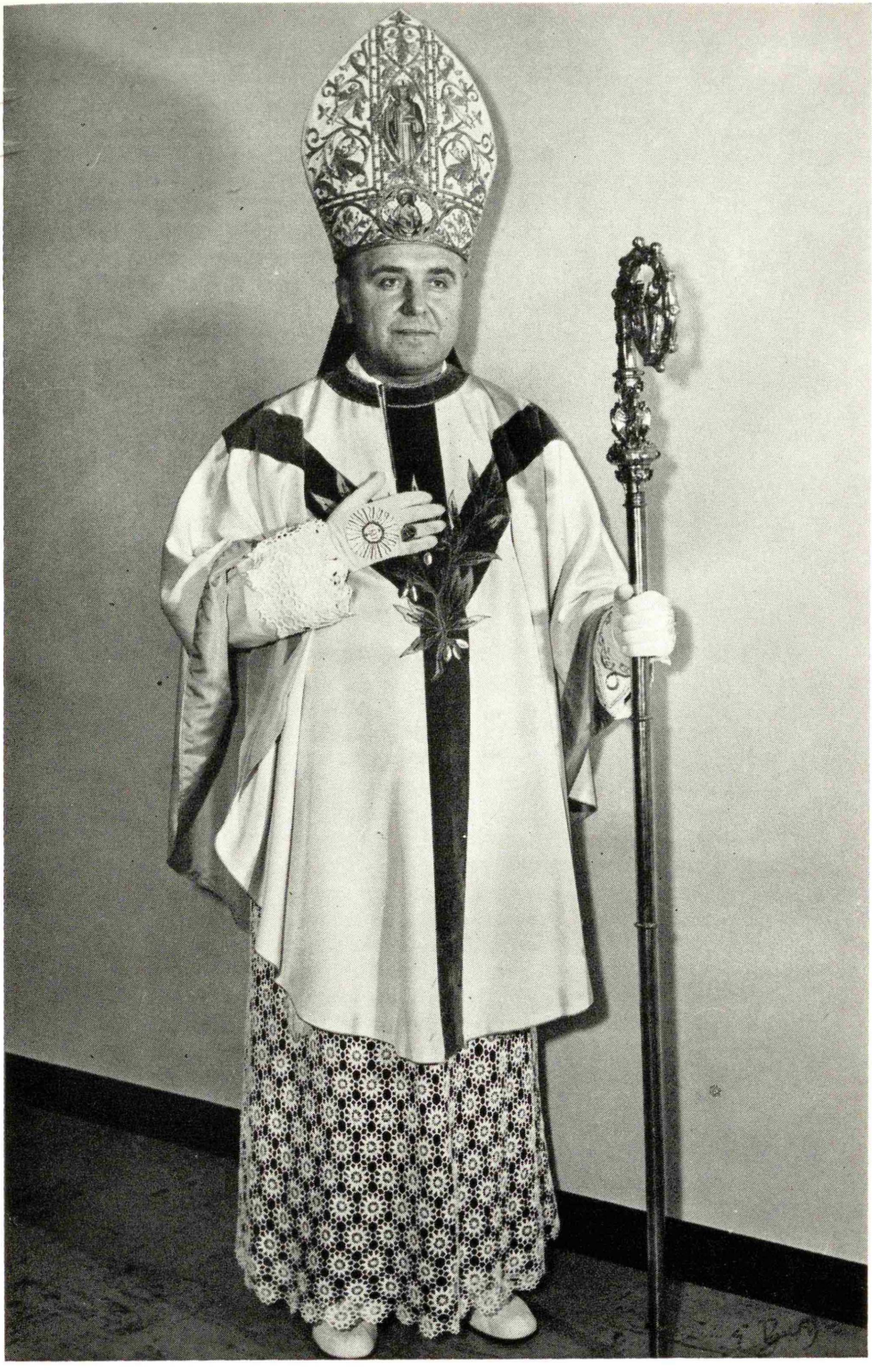
1957: Year of Personality and Administration

A new diocese with Gary as episcopal see was formed of four counties of northwestern Indiana — Lake, Porter, La Porte, and Starke — in 1957. This populous area with its large Catholic population was separated from the diocese of Ft. Wayne. The new bishop of Gary, pastor of Holy Trinity Church in that city, Monsignor Andrew G. Grutka, chose the Church of Holy Angels, one of the most beautiful in Gary, as his episcopal cathedral. The date set for the consecration was February 25, feast of St. Matthias, Apostle.

The Consecration

Following is an adaptation of the *Our Sunday Visitor* account of February 24, 1957. It should be noted that the "old liturgy" was used at this consecration but, since it was subsequent to the *Sacrament of Order* issued on November 30, 1947 by Pius XII, it clearly indicated that the bishop-designate is made a bishop — receives the sacrament of order, or priesthood in its fullness — by the imposition of hands and the prayer indicated in the following text:

> The consecration takes place before and during a Mass celebrated both by the consecrator and the bishop-designate. A separate altar is erected for the new bishop near the main altar, which is used by the consecrator . . . After the epistle and gradual, the consecrator sets forth the duties and powers of a bishop. Then the bishop-elect is prostrate while the Litany of the Saints is chanted. There follows the imposition of hands by the consecrators and the prayer: *Hear, O Lord, our prayers, and granting the fullness of priestly grace upon this your servant, pour upon him the power of your blessing, through our Lord Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen.*



The Most Reverend Andrew G. Grutka, D.D.

> Then, during the singing of the "Come, Holy Spirit, Creator," the consecrator anoints the head of the new bishop with holy oil to signify the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the hands to indicate the power given in the sacrament. Then the symbols of office are given, the crozier or pastoral staff which symbolizes the care of the flock of Christ, the ring symbolizing the espousal to the Church, the book of gospels which symbolizes the preaching of the word of God to God's People . . . After the offertory the new bishop is offered two lighted torches, two loaves of bread and two small casks of wine, symbols of the ancient custom in which the Catholic laity made such offerings at Mass for support of the clergy and maintenance of worship. The consecrator and the newly consecrated bishop offer the remainder of the Mass together . . . Finally the bishop receives his mitre — the helmit of defense and salvation, which makes him formidable to the enemies of truth — and his gloves over which he wears the ring. Then he is enthroned on the permanent episcopal throne in his cathedral.

Such was the consecration of our own Bishop Grutka of the diocese of Gary. Presiding at the solemn liturgical action as consecrator was Archbishop Amleto G. Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States. The assisting consecrators were Bishop Leo Pursley of Ft. Wayne and Bishop John Cody of Kansas City-St. Joseph. The homily was given by Archbishop Paul Schulte of Indianapolis. The educational TV channel, WTTW, carried the entire program. The local radio stations likewise reported the ceremonies.

Sad News

In the list of priests participating in the episcopal consecration there was the name of Father Gabriel Brenkus as one of the "gift bearers." But he was not there. Just a week before, he was confined to St. Catherine's Hospital, East Chicago. Says the February 24 *Paranews* with that strange optimism created by modern therapy: He is recuperating; the doctor recommends no visitors. The notice also asks for prayers and the assistance of the Divine Physician. March 3 *Paranews* announces that he is "on the road to recovery." On March 10 the news continues to be good. Then *Paranews* of April 7: Father Brenkus has been released from the hospital and is now at St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) to recuperate. He is grateful for many prayers.

Martyrs for Christ

Paranews for February 24 reports that the Legion of Mary annual acies ceremony will be held on March 31 at St. Stanislaus, East Chicago. The speaker will be Bishop Rembert Kowalski, O.F.M., exile from his diocese in China. The bishop suffered 18 months in prison in Red China and saw 1000 Legionnaires of Mary go to their death.

New Assistant

The April 14 *Paranews* announces that Father Ronald Schiml arrived to join our pastoral staff as assistant pastor.

Month of May

The new feast of St. Joseph the Worker is celebrated on May 1. *Paranews* of May 12 announces the priestly anniversaries of Fathers Joseph Hajduch and Michael Homco (the tenth), and Father Steve Almasy (the fifth). May 29: First confirmation date of Bishop Grutka at St. John's.

Father Brenkus: Silver Jubilee

It is with a thrill of joy that this writer read the *Paranews* of June 2, announcing the silver jubilee of Father Gabriel Brenkus, following so closely on the triumphant story of the completion and dedication of the new school addition and the sad news of illness at the time of the episcopal consecration.

Father Gabriel was ordained on May 5, 1932. After serving as assistant at Our Lady of Good Counsel in Cleveland, Ohio, and at Sacred Heart Church, Dayton, Ohio, he was assigned to mission work which he performed with the deep faith and zeal characteristic of his whole life. Of the seventeen years spent on the "Mission Band," thirteen were in the South and West, notably Louisiana, Alabama, Tennessee, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Father's parochial activity is already indicated in the previous pages.

On June 2, Father offered a solemn Mass in Thanksgiving with the parish. Father John Zubak, pastor of Assumption Church, East Chicago, preached the sermon in Slovak, and Father Lionel Pire, a fellow missionary, the sermon in English. The reception with a short program was held for all the parishioners at 4:00 P.M. in the auditorium, followed by a buffet luncheon in the Panel Room. At a solemn liturgical celebration on Wednesday, June 5, Bishop Grutka presided and preached the sermon. Over 110 priests and about 60 nuns were present.

Father Edward Homco: Pastor

Though buoyed up by zeal and hope, Father Brenkus' long illness forced him to give up his charge of St. John's parish. He was replaced by Father Edward Homco, who was officially installed as pastor on July 14 by Monsignor Zajwinski, the Dean.

Father Joseph Lazur

The Canadian Shrine pilgrimage beginning July 7th had Father Lazur as chaplain. Father Lazur also presented a paper on The Precious Blood and the Triduum Mortis at the Precious Blood Study Week, August 6-8. This was the first in a series of Study Weeks on the theoretical and practical aspects of the devotion to the Precious Blood held at St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) in the last decade. The Fathers of St. John's shared in these days of research and reflection.

Bits From Paranews

Adult Information Class begins September 25th in the Founders' Room. Will continue until February. The Theme: Christ in the Gospels . . . The newly formed Knights of the Precious Blood schedule meeting of officers and committeemen for September 26 . . . On October 3rd parents of boy and girl scouts meet in the Mural Room. The new scout chaplain is Father Schiml . . . On October 10th Sister Patrice, as guest speaker at the H.S.A. meeting, introduced the entire teaching staff and gave a very interesting and scholarly talk . . . From *Paranews* for October 13th: Congratulations to progressive Sister Alma Cecile and her seventh graders on their monthly publication *The Challenger* . . . A buyer is considering the purchase of our Quonset gym . . . The decision is that the Zabrecky home, now property of the parish, will be rented out for the practical purpose of income for the parish treasury . . . Father Hajduch has resumed his old chore of bus chauffering . . . *Paranews* for November 3rd: The beautiful pamphlet rack in the vestibule of the church is the product of the creative fancy of Father Hajduch and Mike Tomko . . . The Knights of the Precious Blood (group for our high school boys) are developing a hive of activity in Room D and the soda bar.

Confirmation

On November 6, 70 girls, 48 boys, and 9 adults received Confirmation, the second sacrament of initiation, the sacrament of full citizenship in Christ's Church.

Years of Consolidation
1958 - 1959

These are years of quiet progress — years of consolidation, in which parochial life continues under the unassuming leadership of Father Edward Homco. The difficulties arising from a heavy burden of debt and the responsibility for the world-wide changes in every area of life are faced, if not cheerfully, at least courageously.

Highly significant changes in the life of the Church are forecast by the pronouncements and decisions of Pius XII who died on October 9th, 1958, to be succeeded by John XXIII on October 28. The changes in the Church are reflected in St. John's parish. In the judgment of this writer we have here paced progress particularly in the sacred liturgy and the sacramental life of the parish.

A Chronology for 1958

The *Parnews* of January 12 announces that Father Francis Hehn will be here to audit the books. Father Hehn, a very capable accountant, professor at St. Joseph's College, is provincial consultor and treasurer of the Society of the Precious Blood. No one could suspect, as Father went about his work unobtrusively and efficiently, that he would be suddenly called to his reward in less than two months (March 3).

Church Unity Octave

The Church Unity Octave is commemorated in the cathedral by a Byzantine Slavonic Rite Mass on January 26. Somewhat later, on February 9, Father Andrew Sokol, pastor of St. Mary's Slavonic Church in Whiting, celebrated the Byzantine Slavonic liturgy in St. John's Church. The Saint Mary's choir participated in the liturgy, and the Holy Name Society and the Knights of the Precious Blood partook of the chalice of the Precious Blood.

Concern for the Dead

The *Paranews* for March 2 offers evidence of the Slovak people's special concern for the dead: From now on there will be "an official wake" for any of the deceased of the parish (or the immediate members of their families) on the evening before the funeral. All the concerned societies of the parish will be invited to be present. One of the Fathers of St. John's will always be there.

In this chronicle for 1958 we note that Jack Kochis who has long cared for St. John's Cemetery has retired, to be succeeded by his son Joseph (*Paranews,* June 29).

Art and Drama

An art exhibit of paintings by Clarence Giese, ceramics by Florence Spuehler, and art work from participating colleges lined the walls of our auditorium lobby on March 15 and 16, 1958.

This is also the space and time of the sixth annual one-act festival. The public was cordially invited to the exhibit and the plays; there was also discussion and criticism of a professional nature. The invited critic-guest was John E. Fitzgerald, drama critic for *Our Sunday Visitor*. Invited by the Indiana Catholic Theatre Conference, he joined with a panel of guest directors in offering criticism of the eight plays presented in the two-day event. (*Paranews,* March 9)

So many are the areas of improvement or repair through self-help in which parishioners set to work for their parish, that we can give only a sampling. *Paranews,* March 9: You will notice the improvements in the confession facilities. This is the fine work of some of our parishioners under the able supervision of Father Almasy. Father and his volunteers also painted the sacristies (*Paranews,* June 29). The doors of the church now have a new and attractive look, the work of Frank Stofcik. Steve Kurella had his dad help him in repairing the front doors of the school (*Paranews,* July 20) . . . John Staucet continues to contribute to the charm and attraction of the grounds (*Paranews* June 29) "The new holy water fonts at the side entrance of the church are due to the generosity of "a parishioner." (*Paranews,* October 26) "We have purchased a fine imported wood carved statue of the resurrected Christ. A donor is sought." (*Paranews*, November 2)

Honors

Two of John Gazda's speech students, Michele Evano and Yvonne Drasco, won first and second prize respectively in a Noll High School competition. And add to this, Michele won a scholarship . . . *Paranews* for May 11 congratulated Karen Bojda of the eighth grade on winning first prize in a poster contest for Mother's Day . . . Dolores Cernota, R.N., won a scholarship to St. Mary's of Notre Dame College. According to the May 4th *Paranews,* Susan Kalina was the 8th grade grand winner, Donald Kauchak the 6th grade regional winner in a spelling contest. Clark Senior, George Vischak won "an outstanding scholarship." . . . Jim Churosh won a full academic scholarship to St. Joseph's College. (*Paranews,* May 25)

New Organist

Paranews, March 30: A new organist comes to St. John's after Easter. He is Jerome Kacinkas, church organist and choir master from Boston. He comes highy recommended. In the autumn of the year, we are told that a parishioner, Joseph Snarich, now shares the honor and burden of organist, even though "the organ is still in need of repair."

The Anniversaries in 1958

The parish joined in a Mass of Thanksgiving for the graces and favors bestowed on Sister Alma Cecile in the fifty years of her religious life. The date was May 18. On April 19 Sister Marie Eleanor celebrated her twenty fifth year in religious life with a Mass of Thanksgiving in the convent chapel.

Our Bishop

St. John's welcomed its bishop with paschal joy on April 6, as he offered a Pontifical Mass at 10:15. On May 19 he was principal speaker at the Panel Room dinner which followed the Mass for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses . . . On June 9th he attended the N.C.C.W. meeting in the Panel Room . . . On October 9, the bishop administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 127 children and 16 adults. To encourage those who might be apprehensive about finding space in church, *Paranews* offers the assurance: "There will be room in church." . . . Impressive ceremonies marked the silver sacerdotal jubilee of the bishop. St. John's joined in prayer and congratulations on December 5.

The Servers

On April 13 thirty-nine servers were invested with the surplice by their fathers, under the direction of Father Almasy. Twenty-nine eighth grade servers were enrolled in the Knights of the Precious Blood. Though the date set for the servers' picnic at St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) was June 19, inclement weather forced a postponement to July 7. It was held at Marquette Park.

Et Cetera

On April 20 Miss Dolores Cernota, nurse at St. Margaret's Hospital, Hammond, gave an interesting and instructive lecture to the Delta Mu, on the vocation of the Catholic nurse . . . On June 15, Father Schiml shepherded a group of St. John's youth to Brunnerdale High School Seminary at

Canton, Ohio for a vocation workshop . . . The annual pilgrimage to the Canadian shrines is under the chaplaincy of Father Schiml this year. The group of forty pilgrims left St. John's July 6. Later pilgrimages are far less ambitious: there is the Slovak pilgrimage to the basilica of the Sorrowful Mother in Chicago, on August 22. It is called the All Slovak Pilgrimage . . . On August 24 the Legion of Mary made its modest pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Oaks.

Personalities — New Assignments

The *Paranews* of April 20 refers to Father Brenkus' visit to offer the funeral Mass for his aunt Mary Brenkus . . . On June 8 Father Frank Seimetz, principal of Bishop Noll High School, gave the graduation address for St. John's eighth grade boys and girls . . . Our pastor attended the Men's Jednota Convention in Detroit in the week of August 24. A short time later we find him assisting in conducting a mission in Iowa. Report is that he found the change of work relaxing and something of an *ersatz* vacation.

The *Paranews* of October 5 announces that Fathers Hajduch and Schiml will return to the bus driving chore for the next three weeks, as the regular driver will be away.

Father Almasy Leaves

The St. Martha Guild, and the Junior Rosary Society hold open house on August 24, as farewell event for Father Almasy. Transferred to Holy Rosary Church, Dayton, Ohio, he is being replaced by Father Cornelius Fenton.

Diocesan Teachers Convention

Paranews, on October 26, records that the Gary Diocesan Teachers' Convention was held at St. John's, and that its success was largely due to the cooperation of our local workers, beginning with Sister Patrice, general chairman of the Convention, the other Sisters, and our efficient Panel Room staff.

Nurse Graduates

Four of our parishioners graduated August 17 from St. Margaret's Nursing School in Hammond.

The Precious Blood

July 1, Feast of the Precious Blood is celebrated with solemn Mass at St. John's, and Precious Blood novenas are

programmed for Wednesday nights. The great promoter of the Precious Blood devotion, St. Gaspar has a new shrine. His statue, a beautiful carving in wood was blessed on the Feast of the Precious Blood by the vicar general of the Gary diocese. This beautiful wood carving of the saint, together with the shrine altar constructed by Mike Tomko, will eventually be part of the permanent St. Gaspar Shrine.

Parochial Center: Statistics

Statistics for use of the Parochial Center compiled for the month of May:

7876 meals were served in cafeteria (in all)
3938 meals to children
3790 people attended functions (meetings, etc.)
7600 entertained in auditorium
19266 used the Center's facilities.

(*Paranews,* June 22, 1958)

The Debt

Paranews carries weekly plaints, as funds are sought for multitudinous needs and services. But probably the appeal for payment of debts is the bleakest propaganda ploy. All the more heartening, then, that such groups as the Junior Rosary Society (*Paranews,* June 29) should hand the pastor a check for one thousand dollars for "reduction of the debt." And the same occurs (*Paranews,* December 21) as an event brightening the pre-Christmas season by the Marian Theatre Guild.

The Quonset Gym

So frequently has the Quonset Gym been in the news, so practical has it been for athletic activities that it seems a major feature of St. John's physical culture. Though its architectural lines could not match the symmetry of St. John's church and school, it was a firm symbol of work and play. Intrigued both by its appearance and its quaint name, the writer looked up the word *Quonset*: *Trademark, used for prefabricated shelter, set on foundations of bolted steel trusses and built of semicircular arching roof of corrugated metal insulated inside with wood fiber.*

Then, in fading summer *Paranews* announces that the Quonset Gym was to be dismantled now that the new gymnasium was ready for service. It is to be sold. It is to be made into a church. The writer pondered the quaint beauty and the liturgical chant and use, thinking in terms of the beauti-

ful pilgrim psalm (84) sung on journeys to the temple. But it was not to be . . . Quonset disappearing! We plan to salvage enough concrete block and brick for the garage to be erected later on (*Paranews,* November 16).

Nonagenarian: Reflections on Time

Paranews on December 7 reported the death of Joseph Tumidalsky at the age of ninety-two. We mark his passing and add a comment on his life span which extends back to the year 1866, shortly after the Civil War. Perhaps more than all the events in this story of jubilee, this one long lifetime should lead to deep reflection on the meaning of time. And not merely in the sobering sense of "time is short and death is sure." Rather, we ponder the revealed concept of time.

For the Bible, time is what happens in time, what God has done in creation. In the Old Testament the Passover feast yearly recalled the deliverance of God's people from their slavery in Egypt. Other feasts relate to the activities of the people, e.g., the harvesting of grain. But all are projected toward the fulfillment in Christ, for God sent his Son when the fulness of time had come (Galatians 4:4). For Jesus it is the hour. He tells the woman of Samaria

> But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth (Jn 4; 23)

And to his Mother at the wedding of Cana, he said:

> Woman, why turn to me? My hour has not come yet (Jn 2:4).

For the Christian — the thought is Rahner's — time is the positive means by which creatures participate in God's eternity. Says Rahner, time is primarily the mode of becoming in finite freedom from a beginning beyond man's control. In time the free creature personally and selectively realizes the potentiality of his being. He attains the unique, irrevocable completion of its purpose. Or, sadly, loses it!

Time in God's plan includes all the clock and calendar time, the days, months, years, the ages, aeons, and providential summons in events which are the call of grace. In this context all men live — as did Joseph Tumidalsky.

Paranews Reports — 1959

The year 1958 prolongs into 1959 the less glamorous procedure of paying the heavy debt and making minor but "essential improvements." The Home and School Association

continues to work on their project for this year, the blacktopping behind the school and rectory, which was completed at a cost of $2,200 — with the "hope that this will end the essential improvements for some time." (*Paranews,* January 11, 1959)

From the many events of February we single out the Ad Altare Dei Award conferred on Rex Legler by Bishop Grutka on February 8 in the cathedral. And the Silver Jubilee of the Rosary Society on February 25.

In April: The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of Sister Margaret Ellen's entry into religious life. *Paranews* for April 5 reports that Father John Byrne has been chosen provincial of the Precious Blood Society. Father Raphael Gross, president of St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer), and Father Isidore McCarthy are on the Society's board of consultors. *Paranews* for April 26 notes the improvements of the grounds. And there is the plea for volunteer workers, "if we want to save our parish funds for debt reduction." And "we definitely plan to proceed with the new bus garage for which we have the necessary approval of the bishop."

Later, in July, we again note the modesty of the additions and improvements: a new water cooler in church for the convenience of the faithful. Work on the bus garage is proceeding apace . . . the painting of the school is progressing nicely. (*Paranews,* July 5) More volunteer help is needed to complete the window painting in the church, and the landscaping alongside the church. (*Paranews,* July 12)

Personalities in the News

Departure: For seven years Father James Birkley was active in building up St. Joseph's College Calumet Center from its very beginnings. With equal zeal he assisted in the parish church, offering Mass daily and sharing the priestly service. May God bless his future work in the Lord's vineyard. (*Paranews,* June 14)

On August 24, James Cardinal Lecaro, archbishop of Bologna, Italy, visited St. John's and Standard Oil in Whiting. Profoundly impressed, the cardinal congratulated the people of St. John's: the lively and deep sense of faith, heritage of their forefathers, is concretely evident in this church and its people.

The Convention of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union held at Atlanta, September 20 to 25 is of special interest to our parish. St. John's is intimateley linked to this Slovak organization. Mrs. Helen Kocan is the president and Mrs. Anna Hruskovich is supreme treasurer of the Union.

The Steel Strike

Special prayers for ending the steel strike: Mass daily, followed by exposition of the Blessed Sacrament! Discussion has failed! We shall try the approach of prayer for a just solution. But the *Paranews* writer (July 19) ends with a note of disappointment: not with prayer, but because of lack of it. Attendance has been discouraging.

Mary 1885 - 1959

Our Golden Jubilee Book devoted a special page to "Mary," faithful housekeeper at St. John's. Before her was Katherine Wade, who tells the story of the early rugged days with gentleness and charm. Born in 1885 in Baden, Germany, Mary Schneider came to the United States in 1912. She was one of a group of girls chaperoned by Sister Regula, C.PP.S., all of whom were potential nuns. In the Society of the Precious Blood recruitment of this kind was very common. America was the Promised Land of religious vocations. But God had different plans for Mary.

Mary went back to Germany, only to return a few years later. After spending a year in Rensselaer, she came to Whiting at the suggestion of Father Sylvester Hartman (who is connected with St. John's early history) at Thanksgiving time in 1924. She found her special vocation as housekeeper at St. John's, which she carried out with fidelity and sacrifice. She was neat and industrious, and an excellent cook. In fact, on the occasion of her twenty-fifth anniversary as housekeeper, the Rosary Society organized and published the St. John's Cookbook, a little encyclopedia of Slovak recipies, dedicated to her. It turned out to be a best seller.

Mary died on a bright fall day, October 27, at St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) where she had gone to pick mushrooms. She was buried on October 30, Father Homco offering the Mass. The funeral was attended by Bishop Grutka, fifteen monsignori and priests, and a great number of friends. Also present were her two sisters, Precious Blood nuns, who, we suspect, envied her special vocation in God's house, and her final summons to eternal resurrection.

1960

We shall limit our survey of 1960 to a few events and comments, beginning with the blessing of homes. To commemorate the Feast of Epiphany, often called the Feast of the Three Holy Kings (Magi), the priests of the parish bless the homes. Though this blessing occurs yearly we cite the *Paranews* of January 10 as a pattern for all the years:

With the blessing of fair weather and the assistance of extra priests, our house-blessing visits have been a welcome break for us. Father Smolar was with us the first day, as were Fathers Martin and Kern. Then Fathers McKoy and Mike Homco, here on a visit, joined the regular force. So we formed a tiny battalion of ten priests on one day. This first experience deeply impressed Fathers Kern and McKoy. We shall follow our schedule in the hope of completing this gratifying task on Wednesday (Jan. 13) . . . The status of the parish family of St. John's, which is being given at the Masses today, will be presented in writing in the near future. Your activity in this family and support of it has greatly encouraged your priests who by ordination and directive are devoted to the nurture of this parish family.

Congratulations to Mike Tomko, Michael Arnold, Don Brenner, Tony Ruszbasan, Tim Beaudrie, and Jim Toma of our parish Scout Troop 104 and to Terry Tomko and Walter Kekich of the K. C. Troop 100 who received the highest religious award in scouting — the *Ad Altare Dei* . . . Sister Mary Gilbert celebrated the silver anniversary of her religious profession on February 14 . . . On the tenth of March Father Martin addressed the Home and School Association on sex education . . . On March 20th Father Carty, of the noted Rumble and Carty team, delivered an illustrated lecture on the sainted Capuchin stigmatic, Father Pio. The *Paranews* for March 20 calls attention to the high position Paul Monastyrski has attained in the youth movement.

Spelling at St. John's School

Paranews of May 8 extends special congratulations to Jerome Stack on winning the 8th grade spelling title, to James Ormes who was second in the 7th grade, and to Carol Haviar who was in the final competition in the sixth grade.

Pre-Cana

Father Filas, S.J., conducts the first session of pre-Cana Conference on May 15. The pre-Cana conferences have been one of the most significant sources of pre-marriage guidance in the history of St. John's.

Beautiful Ciborium

The Junior Rosary Society made a precious offering to the Eucharistic liturgy: the donation of a beautiful ciborium

. . . The Society again presented a check of $1,000 to the parish. (*Paranews,* June 19)

Precious Blood

1960 was a red letter year for devotion to the Precious Blood. At St. John's — Bishop Grutka was present at the solemn liturgy on July 1 and preached the homily . . . from Rome — the great pope of the Precious Blood, John XXIII, issued the Apostolic Letter *Inde a Primis,* "On Promoting Devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ." (Issued June 30, the eve of the Feast of the Precious Blood) . . . At St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) — Second Precious Blood Study Week was held August 2-4. At the study week, Bishop Grutka offered the Pontifical Mass and Bishop Pursley preached on the world of Man and the World of God . . . The Holy Father wrote a personal letter of appreciation and commendation of the Study Week to Father Herbert Linenberger, moderator of the Society, imparting his special blessing on all who took part in the Week . . . Cardinal Tardini, papal secretary of state, also wrote to Father Linenberger, informing him that the Holy Father authorizes us to dedicate the Study Week to him. In the published work *Precious Blood Study Week* — 1960 these documents are a part of the proceedings.

Father Joseph Lazur

Paranews, August 21, announces the departure of Father Joseph Lazur and his replacement by Father Richard Danielak. While at St. John's, Father Joseph was moderator of the Legion of Mary, the Junior Sodality, and the Marian Theatre Guild. He also taught at Noll High School and accepted assignments in teaching theology on the college level at the Sacred Heart College in Wichita, Kansas. His new assignment takes him to Canada (Laval University in Quebec) for graduate studies in theology.

Red Vestments

Paranews, November 6: Beautiful red vestments, the work of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (Dayton, Ohio) were donated "by a generous family."

Funds

The final issues of the 1960 series of *Paranews* headline the Gary Diocesan Development Plan — a highly organized and complicated campaign to harvest funds for our Catholic

high school education. *Paranews* of December 18 gives the final report: A sense of relief is evident . . . "The hectic activity of the past months is over. Your pastor is happy that the task of evaluating and scrutinizing cards is finished. What is the extent of our success? A total of $265,000, which represents about 75% of our goal. About 380 did not support the program."

On December 29, 1960 for the last time, St. John's solemnly celebrates the Feast of St. Gaspar on this day. We now celebrate the feast on October 21.

1961

One Tenth For God

The first *Paranews* for 1961 appeals for the payment of the tithe. This rather exotic word means one tenth (Webster: *tithe, from Middle English, Old-English, akin to Old Frisian, Middle Low German, all from pre-historic West Germanic, old High German, see also tithingman, tithing penny, tithing rod, a long rod used by the tithingman to keep order in church, as by tapping noisy or drowsy persons*) . . . Tithing in various forms existed in the Old Testament. In the Gospel according to Luke it is the Pharisee who boasts: "I fast twice a week, I pay tithes on all I possess" (Lk 18:12). The *Paranews* in subsequent issues explains and promotes thissystem of laudable support of the Church . . . Later, on March 29, 1963, Bishop Grutka and Bishop Pursley took part in a tithing workshop in St. John's auditorium.

Improvements — 1961

Paranews (April 30) assures St. John's folks of a completely paved parking lot and playground area. Two weeks later the parking lot is completed, and users are asked "for cooperation in the use of the area for parking," for "the parking of cars there has been most haphazard in the past." . . . In midsummer (July 23) we note that the vestibule of the church has been brightly painted by Tom Ryan and David Hein . . . The new sidewalk alongside the sacristy, we are told (*Paranews,* August 6) is the work of Steve Kurella, and the window angle irons in the convent were given a coat of rustproof paint by Ziggie Makarowski and his son (*Paranews,* August 20)

Finally, at the end of the year (*Paranews,* December 17, 24) there is recognition in the banquet circuit: "Father Rodak who so ably cares for many of the church building activities, extends an invitation to all the ladies who clean, wash, sew, and iron in and for the church to a Holiday Din-

ner on December 28 in the Mural Room — a small token of our appreciation for their devotion and work for the church."

Father Hajduch Leaves

After over seven years of service had identified him with almost every parish activity, Father Joseph Hajduch was transferred to St. Anthony Church, Park Falls, Wisconsin. An informal farewell party was organized by the Daughters of Mary, the cafeteria staff, and his family for Sunday, August 27, in the Mural Room. Father's name constantly recurs in *Paranews* for he undertook any and every task: he was never afraid to work. Straight forward and good humored, earnest and unembarassed, he found no task too lowly, no complexity too intricate. The writer of this history was delighted to receive the following reply to his request for information:

> I was assistant pastor, 1954-1961, official bus driver, cafeteria manager, choir director, football coach, chaplain for Legion of Mary, Scouts, moderator of the Daughters of Mary, inter-mural director . . . I enjoyed my years at the wonderful parish. The people had such a great love for their priests.

Father Roman Rodak, ordained eleven years, succeeded Father Hajduch. The new assistant who had served in Detroit and Cleveland was particularly welcome, as he was able to hear confessions in Polish and Slovak.

Paranews Reports: Sacred Events — 1961

Paranews for February 26 announces that the Ad Altare Dei Award was given to Scouts Robert Kukula and Gregory Patrick by Bishop Grutka . . . The death of Father Amand Kopac, well-known Franciscan, is announced by *Paranews* of July 23 . . . On July 30 WGRY (Gary), 1370 on the dial, taped our 10:15 Mass for radiocast at 4:30 P.M. . . . St. Michael Polish Club attended Mass and received Communion in a body on the same morning, and 120 young ladies of the Delta Mu attended the initiation of new members at Marquette Park . . . The Third Order of St. Francis made its sacred pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Seven Dolors at Valparaiso on August 6 . . . Father Byrne, provincial of the Precious Blood Society, offered the Memorial Day Mass in our cemetery . . . Father, just back from South America, reports that Father Kostik is doing well . . . 1961 is the Golden Anniversary year of the weddings of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Yancich, and of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Shimala, Sr.

Father Kalicky's Ordination and First Mass

In the beautifully renovated Chapel of the Assumption of Mary at Carthagena, Ohio, John Kalicky — in a class of eleven deacons — was raised to the priesthood on June 10, 1961. The ordaining prelate was Paul F. Leibold, auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati.

Father Kalicky celebrated his first Mass on June 11 at St. John's. Assisting as archpriest was our pastor, Father Edward Homco. The deacon of the Mass was Father Louis Telegdy; the subdeacon, Father William Griglak. The homily was preached by Father Andrew Pollack. The St. John Bosco men's choir joined St. John's men's choir in singing for the solemn Mass. A recording of the sacred ceremony was made by WGRY to be radiocast later that day. Knights of Columbus joined the Holy Name men as guards of honor for the sacred event.

The Et Cetera of 1961

Comfort in Prayer

Saint Teresa is said to have remarked that a degree of comfort is required for us to pray and meditate well. Perhaps it was such pastoral concern that provided for the installation of the new kneeler cushions. There was a caution, however, regarding their use — as is the case in all creature comforts. Sharp objects (e.g., spiked heels) can damage them very easily: let us try to give these kneelers a long lease on life. (*Paranews,* October 1)

The Church Militant

Last weekend five Catholic Air Force chaplains, among them Father Robert Gaertner, visited St. John's. Their abrupt appearance in the sacristy for Mass no doubt confused the altar boys, who at first blush might have fancied a crew of "bus drivers" had descended upon them to take over the liturgy. (*Paranews,* November 26)

Homily at All Sunday Masses

Bishop Grutka, in a recent clergy conference, directed attention to the need for allotting more time to each scheduled Sunday Mass. Schedules that are too tight lead to rushing (perhaps pushing) and create huge distraction. It is the bishop's thought that a homily should also be scheduled at every Sunday Mass even the early ones. In consequence our Sunday Masses will be rescheduled with the added probabil-

ity that we have an evening Mass, an arrangement which incidentally would prove of considerable advantage to our workers. (*Paranews,* December 3)

Father Edward Moorman Dies

Father Edward Moorman, former assistant pastor, died on December 12, 1961. The parish shared its loss with Father Gregory Moorman, his brother, who has frequently assisted in the pastoral service here at St. John's, particularly in the summer months. (*Paranews,* December 17)

1962 — Paranews Reports

The year 1962 is a year of significant events, but even more a year of personalities:

Due to press of duties at St. Joseph's College (Calumet), Alec Lazur is obliged to give up the direction of our men's choir, a duty he has discharged with excellence. Mrs. Ben Tumidalsky will now undertake the direction of both men's and women's choirs (*Paranews* January 7) . . . Joseph Mihalov, assisted by Eugene Bugaski, is to audit the parish books . . . St. John's School had its first bomb scare. The false informer is roundly rebuked in *Paranews,* January 21: "We are reminded of the serious moral responsibility involving great guilt, whether the scare is real or fictitious. We ask parents to explain this to their children." (*Paranews,* January 7, 14, 21)

A De Paul salvage store has been opened in the Gary diocese. Used but still usable clothing, furniture, clothing, household items can be put to use, charitably, through this store . . . *Paranews* (February 183. Thanks to the generous families who donated the beautiful new vestments and the collection baskets, and thanks to the volunteer group of workers who completely rewired Benedict Hall . . . The diocesan C.Y.O. plans a series of talks for high school juniors and seniors on *The Big Blast on Love.* The talks begin on March 11 and continue for four Sundays at the Community Center . . . Father Schiml accompanies Marian Theatre Guild members to Indianapolis for the Catholic Theatre one-act play contest, the week-end of March 10.

Congratulations

Paranews for May 20 congratulated Jack Duray, member of the parish, senior at Procopius College, who was awarded an assistantship in the department of physics at Boston College.

Mindful of Our Dead

A beautiful new cross, donation of a parishioner, now adorns the parish cemetery. To meet the dedication deadline, Memorial Day, the strenuous efforts of Andy Miterko, John Kalicky, George Tomko and the Justak Trucking Company were required . . . The Memorial Mass on May 30 was offered by Father Fred Bach, diocesan director of cemeteries.

Legion of Mary: Census

St. John's Legion of Mary takes on summertime project — a census of all mobile homes in the North Hammond area. Members will contact the homes in the evenings. The pastor asks that they be received with the customary "St. John Friendliness." A complete census is essential for adequate parochial care. (*Paranews,* June 17) The Legion is compiling a list of all those who for some reason, age, handicap, etc., are unable to attend Sunday Mass. (*Paranews,* September 30)

Delta Mu: Eastern Rite Tour

On July 5th the Delta Mu visited the Byzantine-Slovanic Rite Church of St. Mary's. This ecumenical exercise was one of the bi-monthly activities of the group.

Jubilee

Junior Branch 83 of the Ladies Pennsylvania Slovak Catholic Union celebrated its 50th anniversary on July 26.

Joyful Return

Paranews of July 22 and 29 tell the story of Father Homco's return from a four-week tour of Europe. Though he was far from home, he had not lost contact. "While in London he picked up the military newspaper, *Stars and Stripes,* and, behold, there was a picture of the Whiting beach with the Honorable Judge William Obermiller observing the work of some youngsters." Meanwhile in Chile the Santiago papers headlined the story of the local Judge.

Slavic Apostolate

St. John's contributes generously to the Cyril and Methodius Institute which Bishop Grutka organized at Rome for the training of seminarians for the mission beyond the Iron Curtain. (*Paranews,* August 19)

Paranews, September 30: A new organization is suggested for widows and widowers of the parish. Such an organization has proved successful in Chicago. Later issues of our parish journal show it has succeeded here . . . A special citation for heroism with the American Legion Gold Medal Award was conferred upon a truly dedicated officer, Joseph Trgovich. Congratulations.

Father Fenton Reassigned

On February 28, 1962, Father Fenton left St. John's for a parish post in Montrose, Missouri. The Knights of the Precious Blood, the C.F.M., and the St. John's parish staff bade him farewell. *Paranews,* February 18, reports:

> Father Fenton's activity and efforts in our parish have worked greatly for the cause of Christ. His pleasant and friendly associations will leave a void which cannot readily be filled. For there is another side to the assignment: St. John's will not get a replacement. The shortage of priests is great . . . We shall long cherish his companionship and his work with us.

Death Calls Father Brenkus

On April 17, Father Brenkus celebrated the evening Mass at St. John's, then went to Phil Schmidt's Restaurant with Father Homco for supper. As he was finishing his meal, he suddenly slumped over the table. In a matter of moments he was dead. He said his last Mass on the very altar on which he had offered his first Mass after ordination. (Father Gabriel, was about to leave for Glynwood, Ohio, to be pastor of St. Patrick Church.)

Father Cletus Kern Celebrates Jubilee

Father Cletus Kern of the St. Joseph's College (Calumet) celebrated his silver sacerdotal jubilee on May 3, 1962. He has offered Holy Mass daily in our church for the last three years. Attending this liturgy of thanksgiving was Bishop Grutka, enhancing the happy occasion.

Father Schiml is Transferred

The energitic and dynamic Father Schiml, after five years of pastoral activity at St. John's, was transferred to Holy Angels parish, Dayton, Ohio. He is to be replaced by Father John Kalicky who was ordained last year. After his departure on August 29, Father Schiml penned this gracious note:

To Father Homco and the other priests of the parish and to all the wonderful people of St. John's and to the parish organization, I should like to offer a gracious "Thank You" for your goodness toward me on the occasion of my departure. For the good you have done for me in my five years here — only the good Lord knows how great it is — may God bless you. (*Paranews,* September 2)

God's Twilight

We truly appreciate the presence of Father Ildephonse Rapp, a retired priest of the Precious Blood Society, who offers Mass for us daily at St. John's (*Paranews,* September 30). Father Rapp, ordained in 1904, taught Latin and Speech at the College (Rensselaer) for many years. He lived for years in retirement at the college, always alert, always gracious, always devout. Finally he was persuaded to accept complete retirement at Carthagena, Ohio. Though his memory is dimmed today, he is still pleasant and gracious as the shadows lengthen in the twilight of a beautiful Eucharistic life.

1962 is also the Golden Wedding Anniversary year of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Paunicka and of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Danko. And of the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Dehenes.

Founder's Room

The portraits in the Founders Room are the work of a former parishioner who has a gift for color and form. He is William Sabol. (*Paranews,* October 21)

Y C S

The leaders of the Young Christian Students held their convention at St. John's on November 23. Bishop Hillinger was present.

Elegance

Paranews, December 16: The Panel Room is again beautifully decorated by John Gazda and his staff . . . For the past weeks Jim LaPert, with the help of John Shisslak and Paul Gerba, have been busy with the Christmas crib . . . We note also that Jim LaPert is responsible for the beautiful array of vigil lights in the church.

One of the "replies" to our request for jubilee information especially recalled: "John Gazda and his fine work with decorations at Christmas, Easter, etc. for many years."

1963

We look upon this year as the year of dominant personalities. Father John Kostik, *Paranews* of March 10 reports, will not return to South America to play an active role in the mission work — his active service will center here at St. John — but he hopes to continue his material support for the field where he first began the apostolate . . . Father Joseph Otte, treasurer of St. Joseph's College (Calumet) who offers daily Mass at St. John's Church celebrated his silver jubilee with Bishop Grutka present in St. John's Church, on May 2. Shortly thereafter, May 15, Father Lefko offered a 25th Jubilee Mass of Thanksgiving, joined by the choirs "with whom he had spent much time" when stationed here. On this very occasion, Mrs. Ben Tumidalsky made her last appearance as choir director.

With Our Bishop

The waiting had been long and patient. Every resource was directed to the expansion of what had been called Bishop Noll High School. Finally, on Memorial Day the cornerstone was laid for the enlarged Noll Institute. On the previous Sunday St. John's had its tour of the institute, toward which it had contributed so generously.

The Glagolitic Mass

The diocese of Gary, through the cooperation of its Slovak parishes, shared in the celebration of the 1100 anniversary of the bringing of the faith to the Slovak people. The two-day commemoration, July 6 and 7, was highlighted by a pontifical Mass in the Glagolitic Rite offered by Bishop Grutka in St. John's Church. The Mass was sung by the combined choirs of parishes under the direction of Father Gasparek from Paris. Parish participation was tremendous. A recording of the beautifully sung Mass was made and is available.

The intriguing term "Glagolitic" may be derived from the Old Church Slavonic, *glagola,* "he said," which often occurs in the recitation of the gospels. Glagolitic is the alphabet devised by St. Cyril for the translation of biblical and liturgical texts into Slavonic. Some of the most ancient manuscripts of Old Church Slavonic are written in Glagolitic.

The Glagolitic Rite was used in Zadar, an archdiocese in Yugoslavia, since the middle ages. Zadar lies on the Dalmatian coast of the Adriatic in Croatia, Yugoslavia. Since 1932 it has been immediately subject to the Holy See. Its

history is long and illustrious. The rite or liturgy is Roman-Slavonic, or the Roman rite in the Slavonic language (Cf. *New Catholic Encyclopedia* vol. 14, 1108, vol. 2, 463)

Pope John XXIII Dies

Pope John who won the hearts of all men in his short pontificate, made his last public appearance at the window of the Vatican on May 22, 1963. After a prolonged agony, he died on Monday, June 3. (In a Chicago-bound train the writer got the announcement from another passenger with a blaring radio).

John was to all of us the Holy Father — gentle, good humored, simple, humble — rather than the Sovereign Pontiff. This gentle Father of Christendom set forces in motion which have radically changed the world, in ways of which he never dreamed. One of his favorite thoughts was: "The will of God, our peace." A solemn requiem Mass was offered for the repose of his soul at St. John's on June 10 at 7:30 P.M.

Father Kern Leaves for California

Father Cletus Kern who daily offered the Holy Sacrifice at St. John's for the last four years has found a new field of apostolic work in California. Succeeding him will be Father Francis Sullivan. (*Paranews,* June 2)

Ordained to Priesthood

The class of 1963, including three deacons of St. John's parish, was ordained to the priesthood on June 8, at Carthagena, Ohio. Our three new priests, ordained by Bishop Paul F. Leibold, are Richard Elo, John Zvijak, and Joseph Hanish. After the ordination liturgy, Father Byrne, the provincial, invested the young priests with the mission cross.

Father Richard Elo offered his first Mass on Sunday, June 9, in St. John's Church. Father Edward Homco was archpriest, Father John Blasick, deacon of the Mass, Father Edmund Ryan, subdeacon. Father Joseph Hajduch preached.

The following Saturday, June 15, Father John Zvijak celebrated his first Mass in St. John's Church. Father Homco was assisting archpriest, Father Andrew Bialas, C.S.V., was deacon, and Father John Blasick, subdeacon. The homily was preached by Father Louis Telegdy.

Father Hanish offered his first Mass on Sunday, June 16, in St. John's Church. Father Homco was archpriest, Father Joseph Lazur, deacon, Thomas Yuhas, subdeacon. Father Arthur LeClair delivered the homily.

Oremus Pro Pontifice Nostro

On June 21, 1963 the throngs of enthusiastic Christians (and others) in the piazza of St. Peter's in Rome acclaimed the successor of John XXIII: Giovanni Montini, Cardinal Archbishop of Milan. *Lord grant him length of days!*

Summer Events and Announcements

Members of the Marian Theatre Guild did themselves proud in the July 4th parade: They won a trophy. Seventeen of M.T.G. dressed as clowns and almost stole the show (*Paranews,* July 14) . . . Lie detector demonstration on July 23 by Wayne Marlow, prominent authority in this field (*Paranews,* July 21) . . . St. Joseph's College (Calumet) graduation exercises in St. John's Church on July 27 . . . Famous night club band, The Victorians, appeared in Panel Room July 29 . . . St. Ann's Guild had its outing at Tinley Park with the Benedictine Sisters on July 25. Program included Mass and Benediction, also dinner served by the Sisters . . . Cost of Noll Institute will exceed five million. Work is progressing rapidly (*Paranews,* August 4) . . . Father Bayuk, Slovak Jesuit missionary from Africa, visits St. John's parish. (*Paranews,* August 11) . . . Street Dance scheduled for our parking lot August 16, Ice Cream Social for August 25. Both sponsored by Delta Mu . . . Father Francis Sullivan, new dean of studies at St. Joseph's College (Calumet) conducts day of recollection for Holy Name Society; he also addresses the Home and School Association meeting . . . Mrs. Margaret Malchesney, highly qualified musician with a licentiate in music from Royal Academy of Music in England, and much experience in education and choral work, is to direct St. John's two adult choirs (*Paranews,* September 1, 8).

For Church and Pontiff

Mrs. Helen Kocan, from St. John's parish, received the papal citation *pro ecclesia et pro pontifice.* The honor was conferred on the occasion of the national convention of the First Catholic Slovak Ladies Union of America in Milwaukee. At the convention Mrs. Kocan was re-elected supreme president, and Mrs. Hruskovich was re-elected trustee. (*Paranews* September 22)

St. John's Church

First on the agenda of interior decoration in St. John's Church is the repairing and cleaning of the stained glass windows. Work is progressing (*Paranews,* November 10)

Baptismal Robe and Candle

Beginning with the first Sunday of Advent each child baptized at St. John's Church will be given its own personal baptismal robe and candle. Parents, then, may point to the garment and the candle when they explain Baptism and the divine life within us. Parents might possibly desire to use the same robe for all their children. On the hem the mother may embroider the name of each child and the date of Baptism, with the result that it will become a family treasure. The baptismal candle can be used on the anniversary of Baptism, the day of first Mass, religious profession, wedding and finally, the day of death. The Junior Legion of Mary is to be thanked for sharing their time and talent in making the baptismal garments. (*Paranews,* November 24)

1964

Major concern in 1964 was the decoration of the church. Liskowiak Studios of Milwaukee designed and directed the work, which was aided and abetted by an immense volunteer effort.

Mr. Matt Justak supplied transportation for the lumber and scaffolding. The Panel Room furnished the evening luncheon. Portable confessionals in baptistry and grotto provided for unobstructed and unobstructing ministry. (*Paranews,* January 26) . . . The painting in the sanctuary was retouched. Work on the electrical wiring proceeded according to plan. And the workers were ready for the second area. (*Paranews,* February 16)

The decoration of the sanctuary moved more slowly. With a fine sense for the liturgy, the workers made every effort to focus attention on the altar and tabernacle, the center of the liturgy. Much of the work was highly specialized, detailed, and out of view, but the coordination of effort made it possible to complete at least the bulk of the task by Holy Week.

The *Hammond Times,* February 2, 1964, records a remarkable illustration of the scaffold's "geometric design." *Paranews* of April 12 promises that the decoration will be concluded within a couple of weeks, though the varnishing of the woodwork, the pews, and the painting of the statues will require a longer time.

Paranews of May 3 and July 12 give this summary: Over $36,000 have been collected, sufficient to cover the basic contract for the painting. The other jobs "we will have to do on our own: floor work beneath the pews, flooring in the choir loft, and tuck pointing." The final item in the reno-

vation was the floor. This was sanded and treated with a newly devised finish — Torginal.

The Altar

The final touches were added to the main altar when the red drape was hung. The altar stone was consecrated on May 7, prior to the Confirmation liturgy. Embedded in the altar slab were the sacred relics of the holy apostles Andrew, Jude, and Thomas, of the martyrs Wenceslaus and Maria Goretti, and of the confessor Casimir.

Some Et Ceteras in 1964

Tuck pointing continued well into July. At the end of the month the P.A. system was carefully checked. A last major effort was the construction of the garage . . . *Parvuli Dei* were presented at the Cub Scout Communion Mass on February 16 . . . Judy Grogan a papal volunteer working in Honduras, asked for religious articles, books, clothing, etc. for the mission (*Paranews,* February 23) . . . Our organist, John Stanish, makes dean's list at De Paul University . . . Al Lazur is directing the adult choirs, Faith Tumidalsky the children's choirs (*Paranews,* March 29) . . . Thanks to the Andrew Hrasch family for the donation of a piano to our school . . . A new statue of Our Lady of Peace is being carved for her shrine in the rear of the church, the gift of the school children and the Home and School Association (*Paranews,* May 10) . . . Hearing aids have been installed in the rear confessional (gospel side) . . . Father Kostik and Dr. Kosior are nurturing the flower beds around the church, and Father Kostik is adding a tiny vegetable garden near the rectory (*Paranews,* May 17).

1964 is the Golden Wedding Anniversary Year of Michael and Anna Matuska, and of Stanley and Helen Gronowski. And of the Silver Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Matlon, Mr. and Mrs. John Smutniak, and Mr. and Mrs. Michael Hajduch.

Rest in Peace

On May 27, 1964, Mr. Joseph Lazur, father of Father Joseph Lazur, was laid to rest, Father Joseph offering the requiem Mass.

Noll Institute Fund

The campaign begun a few years ago was concluded last April. The original assessment for St. John's parish was

$350,000. The total pledged by parishioners was $280,000. There were a thousand donors out of a possible 2,100 (*Paranews,* June 14)

Whiting

All the parishes of Whiting joined in a Mass of thanksgiving in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the city of Whiting. Father John Kostik was celebrant of the Mass held on the Whiting Football Field at noon on July 5. Bishop Grutka was present. (*Paranews,* July 5)

The Grotto — The Parade

The parish's shrine of Mary was made even more beautiful through the efforts of the Holy Name Society, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wirtz, Jim LaPert and John Shisslak . . . Beautiful also were the floats for the July 4th Parade: Marian Theatre Guild, Delta Mu, and Whiting-Robertsdale C.Y.A. share the honors. (*Paranews,* July 12)

Father Smolar

Father Joseph Smolar bids farewell to relatives and friends on August 23, 1964 in the Panel Room. He leaves his position at St. Joseph's College (Calumet) to direct the modern science program at Del Bufalo Seminary, Liberty, Missouri.

No Experience Required

Wanted — a young adult to be editor of our monthly paper, the C.Y.A. INFORMER. Any young adult will do. Only requirement: zeal and dedication. If you are interested, call Father Danielak. (*Paranews,* September 13)

1965 — Council Closes

1965 is the final year of the great Vatican Council II, marked by the projection of vast changes in the Church, and by new approaches in the relation of the laity to the clergy in contemporary society, by collegiality of pope and bishops, by lay participation in liturgy and parish life. Something of this is brought out by the vernacular in Mass and sacraments, liturgical readings by laymen, Communion under both species, and distribution of Communion by laymen, and the formation of groups of priests and laymen in administrative and directive functions in the diocese. We must also mention the episcopal synods in the government of the



ST. JOHN PARISH COUNCILS





entire Church, and the ecumenical movement as approved and encouraged by the Church.

At St. John's the thinking also crystallized regarding the need for a new rectory. In this instance, at times the cooperation is under difficult circumstances, but the popular realization of the need gradually prevails. Plans for the new building were submitted to Bishop Grutka on July 1.

Paranews Reports

February 28 carries the story of a violent storm damaging the church tower.

On April 15 Father Herbert Linenberger paid us a brief visit. He, as the moderator general of the Society of the Precious Blood, came to the States to preside at an important Provincial Chapter, at which the Society in America is divided into three provinces, Cincinnati, Kansas City, and Pacific. Father John E. Byrne was elected provincial of the Cincinnati, Province, Father Daniel Schaefer, of the Kansas City Province, and Father Cletus Foltz, of the Pacific Province. Delegates are also chosen for the general chapter to be held at Rome.

June 13: Miss Kate Wade, the first housekeeper at St. John's, is called to her reward. (Cf. first Jubilee Book)

Sesquicentennial

August 15, Feast of Our Lady's Assumption, 1965, marks the 150th Aniversary of the founding of the Precious Blood Society in 1815 by Gaspar del Bufalo. St. John's joins with the Society in prayer of thanksgiving.

Father Danielak Leaves

Father Danielak has been assigned to St. Brigid parish, Xenia, Ohio. He was especially influential among our youth, taught religion in Noll High School in addition to his regular priestly work in the parish, was guidance counsellor for the Delta Mu, the Legion of Mary, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, and the athletic department. He assisted in the founding of the Whiting C.Y.A., and was instrumental in organizing the C.C.D. classes for our high school students. Open house and farewell, August 29. (*Paranews,* August 22). Father Richard Thiel succeeds him.

Parish Festival

The Parish Festival, August 13-22, a huge success. Thanks to the co-chairmen: William Curosh, Andy Miterko and Jim Homco, and to many more. Net profit: $47,000.

Festival of the Faith

On October 3 a prayer service was held at Noll Institute for the purpose of promoting Christian unity. The principal speaker was Dr. Edgar Chandler of the Church Federation of Chicago. We have here an ecumenical development of the ancient "Reformation Sunday."

Altar

A new "altar of sacrifice" is set up in our church. Mr. John Kalicky constructed the new altar, and Charles Kosalko decorated it. Matching the appointments of the church, it symbolizes the sacrifice and prayer of our people. (*Paranews,* November 21)

1965 was the Silver Wedding Anniversary Year of John and Anna Salus, and of Peter and Helen Dubec.

1966

Film of the Year

The first issue of *Paranews* in 1966 reported with obvious relish an accolade from TV 5, Chicago, whose news program included a film featuring St. John's choir, with close-up shots of children and adults at Mass, and the nice details of crib, altar, and other appointments of the church.

Ad Altare Dei

The *Al Altare Dei* Award was conferred on Scouts William Smriga, James Hajduch, Dennis and Richard Boyle by Bishop Grutka in the cathedral on February 6.

Rectory Project

Bids are opened March 18. The next day, Feast of St. Joseph, after the evening Liturgy there was the symbolical ground-breaking ceremony. Mr. Joseph Gerba, Sr., whose artistry is evident in many of St. John's fine projects, provides oil protrait of the building-to-be. It was exhibited in the vestibule of the church for all to see.

Extraordinary Jubilee

Paul VI had proclaimed an Extraordinary Jubilee to follow the close of the Council. For the faithful of this area the jubilee services were held at St. Joseph's Church, Hammond, on March 20 with pontifical Mass, homily, profession of faith, and explanation of a Vatican II document.

Paranews Reports

Religion classes for the deaf are conducted at St. Mary's Parish, Griffith, Ind., from June 4 to August 26 . . . On April 14, Stephen Zabrecky died. The funeral liturgy was held April 19. Steve was one of the stout-hearted parish pioneers. A man of deep faith and dedicated service (fireman and caretaker), he was an example to all . . . Father Kostik represented St. John's as subdeacon of pontifical Mass celebrated at Gary cathedral on April 27 by Cardinal Beran, archbishop of Prague.

First Mass

Justin Kauchak, of the Order of Preachers, was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Loras Watters, of Dubuque, Iowa, on June 3. He offered his first Mass on Sunday, June 5, in St. John's Church. Our pastor, Father Edward Homco, was archpriest; the deacon was Father Dennis McAuliffe, O.P.; the subdeacon, Father Bartholomew Joerger, O.P. The homily was delivered by Father John F. Jacobs, O.P. Father Justin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Kauchak of St. John's parish.

New Rectory: Final Plans

The plans now finally approved, construction of the new rectory is about to begin. The contract was awarded to Leo Rueth and Sons. Cost is set at $245,000 — a modification of the more ambitious original plans, which called for an expenditure of $300,000. In succeeding issues of *Paranews* parishioners are kept up to date on the progress of the work, and reminded of the need for their generous spirit of sacrifice. (Cf. *Paranews,* June 5, 1966)

Father Duray Laid to Rest

Paranews for June 19 announces the unexpected death of Father Louis Duray. He died of a massive heart attack on June 15. The funeral took place on June 20 at Holy Trinity Church in Gary, where he was pastor. Bishop Grutka was celebrant of the funeral Mass and preached the homily. The deacon of the Mass was Father Gilbert Wirtz; the subdeacon, Father James Elliott. Burial was in St. John Cemetery. A funeral Mass was also celebrated at St. John's on June 20, for the convenience of those who could not attend the services at Gary.

In our first jubilee book we give the account of Father Duray's first holy Mass at St. John's. Of his work in the last

years of his life there is evidence in "Fifty Golden Years, The Story of Holy Trinity Parish, Gary, Indiana." *Paranews* of June 19, 1966 expresses its condolence to Father Duray's father, John, his brothers, Andrew, Norbert, and Joseph, to his sister, Margaret, his sister-in-law, Mrs. John Duray.

Paranews Report — 1966

The writer of the following item in *Paranews,* July 24 seems to re-echo the exultation of the whole pastoral staff which had pleaded so persistently for funds: "The news of our rectory has gone far. A parishioner in Vietnam has sent us $1,000 toward the new rectory fund."

Diocesan CYO picnic is to be at Camp Lawrence, near Valparaiso, August 21 . . . Community Conference on Christian Development, held September 10-11, at Noll Institute, is directed toward all who are interested in any area of Christian formation and growth, following Vatican Council II . . . Sister Gregory of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, the former Margaret Bercik, before leaving for an assignment in Africa, invited relatives and friends to an organ recital in St. John's Church, September 7.

1967 Paranews Reports

January 22: Whiting Christian Unity Observance is held in the Whiting Community Center. Worship included a combined choir of the various local denominations. The service is part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Reassigned

Father Richard Thiel has been assigned to the Precious Blood Parish in Dayton, Ohio, as assistant. Parishioners are invited to the farewell party for Father on January 30 in the Panel Room. Father Paul Wohlwend, who had served as assistant in Detroit, Cleveland and Dayton, replaces Father Thiel.

Father Kalicky's Mother Dies

On January 31 Father John Kalicky and his fellow-priests offered Mass of the Resurrection for his mother, Mrs. John Kalicky who had died the previous Friday, January 27. Father Edward Homco delivered the homily.

Science Fair

Junior High is all agog over the Science Fair here in St. John's Gym. There will be 118 of their exhibits, also a

closed circuit TV showing the booths on television, and one of the hugest flags in the country, 20 ft. x 30 ft., suspended from the ceiling, *Old Glory In All Its Glory.* Did you ever see chicks hatch? Now you will see them right before your eyes. And how about a space display directly from NASA? A wonderful exhibit of our space program . . . more, more. (*Paranews,* April 2) . . . One day of Science Fair was also Family Day, with spaghetti dinner in the Panel Room.

Briefs

St. John's Girl Scouts were invited to participate in a parade honoring Cevdet Sunay, president of the Republic of Turkey (*Paranews,* April 9) . . . Father Stephen Almasy, Chaplain USMC, former assistant at St. John's, featured in Extension and Jubilee magazines, headlining his ministrations to American servicement in Vietnam . . . Openings for experienced lay teachers in the second and third grades of our school. (*Paranews,* April 23) . . . Sisters of St. John's School thank parish for generous contribution toward purchase of car. The total $3,000 "should put the Sisters in the driver's seat" (*Paranews,* May 14) . . . Summer Festival — August 8-14 under chairman John Gazda. (*Paranews,* May 21) . . . This year was the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Albert and Anna Zabrecky.

Father Alphonse Spilly

Deacon Alphonse Spilly was raised to the order of priesthood on June 3, 1967, by Bishop Edward McCarthy, auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati. The newly ordained priest concelebrated his first Mass in St. John's on June 4. Concelebrating the Liturgy with him were Precious Blood Fathers Edward Homco, John Kostik, John Lefko, Louis Telegdy, Robert Lechner and Kenneth Bubb. Father Lechner preached the homily. Father John Kalicky was deacon; Frater Celestine Reczek, O.F.M., a cousin, was subdeacon.

Father Spilly, son of Mr. and Mrs. Al Spilly of St. John's parish, is presently pursuing graduate studies in biblical science in Chicago. He is a member of the senate of the Cincinnati province of the Precious Blood Society. He also served as delegate to the General Chapter of the Society at Salzburg in August, 1971, at which a new governing body was chosen for the Society.

Blessing of New Rectory

On July 7, feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius, patrons of the Slavic nations, Bishop Grutka blessed the new rectory

in a simple ceremony. Though the new parish home was not yet ready for occupancy, the parishioners were invited to visit the new edifice. Only two months later were some of the rooms occupied. Father Kostik brought some visiting clergy into the new rectory on September 12, feast of Mary's Holy Name. We are assured that there was a great silence, no door bells, no persistent telephone to disturb their slumber.

Demolition Ltd

The demolition crew will arrive on October 5, to create parking and playground space. Neighbors will miss the incessant slamming of the screen door, Father Kostik's bright flowers, and the Saturday double parking, and we miss the cheery greetings of our former neighbors, since we have moved down Lincoln Avenue. The last landmark of the pioneer days began its death struggle on October 6. The old rectory retired from active service only a few weeks ago. What wind, rain, ice, and sixty years of service could not break down, succumbed to the iron crunch of Justak's crane. Many viewers looked on with a degree of nostalgia, keeping a day-long vigil. Such were the musings of the writer in *Paranews,* October 1, 8.

This writer shares the nostalgia for the intimacy of the old rectory with its historic basement, where secretariate jostled the laundry. He still recalls the hours spent with heaps of documents in writing the old history, the underground passage to the school where he occasionally got lost, or bumped an uncautious head, the narrow stairs leading to an ancient rumpled attic, with its tossled beds and its total seclusion. It was so friendly and hospitable!

Paranews Reports

On June 26 three of St. John's girls were accepted into the novitiate of the Sisters of Providence: Sister Ann Barbara (Barbara Tomko), Sister Simon (Lorraine Kasarda) and Sister Christopher Ann (Kathy Vargo) began their two years in novitiate. Beginning her second year was Sister Lauran (Joan Kaminsky) . . . Recently planted Juniper bushes add beauty to the landscape of the rectory. They

were donated by a nursery in St. John in Indiana . . . The brick enclosure for garbage cans, designed and built by Mr. Joe Spilly, should encourage an anti-litter attitude. (*Paranews,* November 12) . . . St. Theresa Club celebrated its fortieth anniversary at a Christmas dinner this past week. This little group over the years has worked for the spiritual, social, and material welfare of the parish. Their projects and donations have totaled $17,775. (*Paranews,* December 10)

The Album Directory

Toward the close of 1967 St. John's published its beautiful parish directory. It has a thumb-nail sketch of the history of St. John's, fine group pictures of the Fathers, the rectory staff, the Sisters, the lay teachers, the original parish council, and the members added to the council in 1967, a gracious page from the bishop, another from the pastor, the album pictures of individual or family members, and finally the alphabetical directory. The cover gives an aerial view of St. John's.

If we may reword an ancient phrase, each picture in the directory is worth a thousand words, and to this we must add our own accolade — the children's pictures are worth a hundred thousand. (The directory owes much to Richard Rudzinski — picture on the front cover; to Joseph Gerba — artistic highlighting of the aerial view; to Francis Kubeck and Bernard Chiluski — additional inside pictures, and also to many volunteers who cooperated in this splendid effort.)

Father Rodak Transferred

In August, 1967, Father Roman Rodak, assistant for six years, was assigned to a chaplaincy at Columbia, Pennsylvania (Sister Adorers of the Precious Blood). On August 27, the Marian Theatre Guild and the Daughters of Mary sponsored an appreciative farewell reception in the Mural Room. Father Roman recalls his days at St. John in a very perceptive letter to the writer of this history. He had been active in the direction of the Young Ladies Sodality, the Altar Boys, Marian Theatre Guild, was editor of the *Paranews* for three years, and moderator of the Panel Room. He adds:

> "Parishioners displayed a personal interest in the church, the functions, property, and activities. Note just one example — the women worked weekly in the sacristies, washing and cleaning. Men with diverse skills employed their expertise to keep the parish in repair, as, for instance, when they turned those skills to the erection of

the scaffolding for re-doing the interior of the church. Others took a personal interest in the lawns, flowers, etc. These they kept in good shape without any remuneration. M.T.G. did all its tasks without charge. Many members exercised professional skill in their own right. There were other special talents possessed by this same group, in the arts, like painting, music, etc."

Succeeding Father Rodak was Father William Shields who came to Whiting from St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer), where he had been dean of men.

Paranews Reports

Sister Irma Marie Grencik, of the Sisters of the Precious Blood, pronounced her vows in the Motherhouse Chapel at Dayton, Ohio, on August 15 . . . The Summer Festival realized the sum of $35,000. (*Paranews,* September 3) . . . Thanks to Mike Evano for his consummate skill in trimming the shrubbery on the parochial grounds. (*Paranews,* October 1)

At Rest

Paranews, December 17, 1967, reports the death and burial of Mrs. Ann Homco. The Fathers joined with her bereaved priest sons in the concelebrated liturgy for the dead. Bishop Grutka preached the homily. She was laid to rest in St. John's Cemetery in the promise and hope of a glorious resurrection in Christ to whom she had consecrated her sons in the priesthood.

Parish School Board

The growing diversity of organization in our parishes and dioceses reflects the complexity of the Church's life in the modern world. Many such organizations arise in compliance with Vatican II's mandate, and they involve more than an ideological attempt to keep busy. In this sense we view Father Homco's concern with the establishment of new agencies in the parish, particularly the new Parish School Board, formed in this year of 1967.

"The complexity of parochial demands," says James Homco, in his response to our question file letter, "the relative importance of Catholic education in terms of the children, money, teaching personnel and decision-making were viewed with growing concern by Father Homco. This, coupled with the need for lay people to become more engaged in the life of the parish and in recognizing their apos-

tolic responsibilities, led to the establishment of new agencies within the parish. One such agency was the Parish School Board."

Mr. Homco outlined the effort of the board under six rubrics:

1) It established written policies and procedures for the school.

2) A handbook explained the school's ideals, policies, procedures.

3) An educational assistance program was set up with a view to encourage teacher certification and assist in keeping teachers informed and updated on trends in education.

4) Quality education was promoted. Due to united and harmonious effort of teachers and others concerned, the school received a first class commission as an institution of learning from Mr. Robert J. Alban, State Inspector, in his evaluation on September 19, 1969.

5) Establishment and enforcement of policy has allowed the principal the freedom to exercise her professional leadership and judgment in the administration of the school, exemplified in the fine rapport of teachers, parents and students.

6) A remedial reading program was established.

Two other agencies, the Parish Council and the Financial Committee were also set up at this time.

Paranews Report — 1968

The Parish School Board toured the school today. It has been busy since its election: James Homco, president, Rudy Zajac, vice-president, and Barbara Hmurovich, secretary. (*Paranews,* January 7) . . . Lack of interest has led to discontinuance of the Daughters of Mary, an organization which has done immense good for our parish (*Paranews,* January 14) . . . Interfaith prayer service at Whiting Community Center at 4:00 P.M. today; fifteen parishes were represented. (*Paranews,* January 21) . . . State Senator LaMere speaks in the Marian Theatre this afternoon on the bill legalizing abortion. (*Paranews,* March 31)

Bishop Grutka at St. John's

On April 28, Bishop Grutka celebrated Mass in our church at 10:30 A.M., had dinner with the parish council, then viewed the Fine Arts Fair, and joined children and parents in an informal visit . . . Bishop Grutka offered the

Memorial Day Mass in St. John's Cemetery. (*Paranews,* June 2)

Sacerdotal Jubilee

On the feast of the Precious Blood, Father Homco and twenty three other priests of the Society of the Precious Blood marked their silver jubilee, by concelebrating the Eucharistic Liturgy in St. John's Church. (In their ordination year — 1943, one group was raised to the priesthood on May 9, the other on December 5. Father Homco belonged to this latter group. The July 1 celebration of Precious Blood was for both groups; twenty four of whom, out of twenty seven, were present.)

The visitors were impressed by the friendly hospitality of St. John's. They applauded the work of Don Kometz and the choir, of John Gazda and the Panel Room staff, Mrs. Frank DeLinck, and Miss Phyllis Price (who painted the two lectern covers with the Precious Blood theme), Mrs. Sue Markovich (for the hours of work in the sacristy), the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, and all who attended the concelebrated liturgy. (*Paranews,* July 7)

Paranews Reports

Congratulations to Scout Troop 204 from St. John's and to their leader, Joseph Zavesky, for their Fourth of July float which earned them a trophy . . . Plans are being formulated for a Diocesan Conference on Modern Spirituality sometime in November. All parishes are to prepare for it by means of discussions on certain phases of Christian life on the parish level. A committee was appointed by the parish council to make more detailed plans (*Paranews,* September 8) . . . C.C.D. classes for children in public grade school began last Saturday . . . All parents have a serious obligation to see that their children are instructed in the faith, according to their age and ability. This duty does not end with First Holy Communion or Confirmation. (*Paranews,* October 6)

Father Michael Homco receives the Bronze Star for outstanding service in Vietnam (*Paranews,* November 10) . . . *Paranews* for December 1 calls special attention to the *Our Sunday Visitor* text of "Human Life in Our Day," the collective pastoral letter of the American bishops, . . . *Paranews* on December 15 directed attention to the National Catholic Office for Motion Pictures (NCOMP): "In 1968 one third of the films classified by NCOMP were found to be seriously objectionable from a moral viewpoint. How many of these did you or your children support by attending?"

Father Edward Homco, Jubilarian

Though the ordination class of 1943 had its jubilee celebration on the Feast of the Precious Blood, the people of St. John's chose to honor their pastor on the day of his ordination as their own special priest. On December 5, they joined with Father Edward in a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving. Bishop Grutka, personal friend of pastor and parish, himself ordained to priesthood thirty-five years, delivered the homily.

It was a day of jubilee joy. At 9:30 in the morning the children sang at a special Mass with joy in their hearts, grateful for the graces given them, for the kindly instruction and guidance from the "pastor of St. John's." Father Kostik preached the homily, rejoicing with the children. There was a delightful program in the afternoon prepared by the children.

The Jubilee Mass was at 6:30 in the evening: a reception followed, filled with euphoria, reflecting the unrestrained confidence the people have in their pastor and the joyous love they bear him.

We congratulate him on the honors he bears with dignity and worth, pastor of greater St. John's, president of the Gary Priests' Senate, member of the Senate of the Cincinnati Province of the Precious Blood Society.

Paranews Reports — 1969

Boy Scouts Steve Zavesky and Robert Menzl received Ad Altare Dei Awards at the cathedral . . . Clark High School Concert Choir presents a selection of sacred music in St. John's Church . . . Memorial Plaque for the new rectory project is located in the hallway between Founders Room and Mural Room. (*Paranews,* March 30) . . . Recently the General Chapter of the Sisters of Providence voted that those who so desire may retain their religious habit or wear a modified form of religious garb or, on occasion, contemporary dress. To wear contemporary dress requires permission of the Provincial Superior . . . "Patient understanding in all renewal experiments in the Church today is important if we are to maintain mutual respect and unity in the St. John parish family". (*Paranews,* April 13)

Father Opat's Ordination and First Mass

On May 10, Kenneth Opat was ordained priest by Bishop Pursley. His first Mass was offered in St. John's Church on May 18, with Father Francis Biwer, O.S.C., as deacon, and

Father Joseph Sullivan, O.S.C., as subdeacon and homilist. Father Homco was archpriest. We should note that Father Kenneth is a member of the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross, usually called Crosier Fathers.

Special Events

At the annual guest night sponsored by the Home and School Association, John O'Drobinak, attorney-at-law, spoke on the history of the Whiting-Robertsdale area on April 22, in the Panel Room . . . The Bishop Noll Advanced Mixed Choir and the Nollaires presented an afternoon concert of sacred and pop music in our Marian Theatre on May 25.

Paranews Reports

On June 15, the eight parishes of the Hammond Area NCCW sponsored a public celebration of the Feast of Corpus Christi at Noll Fieldhouse. Following the evening Mass there was a candlelight procession with the Blessed Sacrament . . . The parish council approved an expenditure of $15,000.00 for tuck pointing on the church steeple and chimney. Project has already been started. (*Paranews,* June 22) . . . Congratulations to the St. John's C.Y.O. who won first place with their float "Parade of Freedom" in the Whiting Fourth of July Parade, and also to the St. John's Boy Scout Troop 204 who won second place with their float "Boy Power — Man Power," expressing the thought that America's manpower begins with boy power. (*Paranews,* July 13)

Work of cleaning and repairing our school building is progressing. A source of expense and anxiety are the windows which are broken regularly. Sad to say, our own children have caused most of it. Another major job is repairing the boilers which heat our plant. The cost about $7,000 (*Paranews,* July 27) . . . Father Homco was elected as delegate to the General Chapter of the Society of the Precious Blood; August 28 is the date of departure for Rome. (*Paranews,* August 17) . . . On August 26 Father Kostik celebrated his birthday. Bishop Grutka concelebrated a "birthday Mass" with Father John. Open house followed in the Panel Room. It was a splendid evening, thanks to Bishop Grutka, to Mr. John Gazda and his staff for the delicious dinner, to Mrs. Susan Markovich and her helpers who took care of the sanctuary needs; to Mrs. Faith Tumidalsky, her helpers, and, especially, the wonderful choir . . . In a recent survey regarding the obligation of attending Mass on the feast days which are now holy days of obligation, the vote was: 116 for no change, 63 for change. (*Paranews,* Septem-

ber 7) . . . Father Homco returned home Tuesday, October 14. He was present at a papal audience for Slovak pilgrims. . . . 1969 was the Golden Wedding Anniversary Year for Mr. and Mrs. Michael Kohan.

Hark

Paranews for December 7, 1969, promises a new monthly paper called *Hark,* to be edited and produced by parishioners. Its purpose: to improve communication among the organizations and individuals in the parish, and be a medium of sharing ideas and activities in greater detail. The writer has found the few numbers he viewed quite fascinating — modest, inexpensive, personal in approach, and warmly appreciative of Church life and liturgy.

Diocesan Congress

The delegates from the Diocesan Congress report to the parish council: There is need for more adult education, freer communication on the parish level, improved involvement of the youth with their energy and capacity, better interparish relationship. (*Paranews,* November 30)

Eucharistic Liturgy in the Homes

In accordance with the spirit of Vatican II, Mass is now frequently offered in the homes of parishioners. The *Paranews* made announcement of the home Masses and offered lists of homes concerned.

1970 — End of a Decade

1970 marked the end of a dynamic decade in the Church. The Council, the post-conciliar decisions, the sweeping changes in liturgy and life, the transformation in attitudes toward priesthood and religious life, the public defiance, the dwindling of vocations, the ceaseless debate in journalese theology — all these marked the past decade as unique in the Church's history.

St. John's saw and realized and adjusted to much that was good in the period of change, thanks, we think, to the prudent balance of its priests and the parish's deep rooting in the ancient faith. This year of 1970 also marked the passing of St. John's most firmly forged links with the early days — Father John Kostik and Father Michael Homco, who seemed to be manifest proof of the validity of the unchanging faith in a changing world. With all the good men and women of the early days, they bore witness to the meaning

of the Christian faith in the light of the eternal reward to which they were called.

The keynote of the year is struck in the pre-Lenten homily *Focus On Hope,* as the priests of St. John attempt to enrich the lives of the parishioners by entirety-involvement in our common hope. A seven-week series, to be held on Wednesday evenings, will begin on February 4. A guest speaker will present the following themes:

Feb. 4: Vatican II and What is Happening.
Feb. 11: The Three Dimensions of the Church.
Feb. 18: Sin is Definitely Not Old Fashioned.
Feb. 25: The Wider Meaning of Sacrament.
Mar. 4: Authority and Freedom in the Church.
Mar. 11: Faith in Christ, What Does it Mean?
Mar. 18: Religious Education Reconsidered.

Every effort was made to interest the parishioners. A booklet was distributed in advance of each lecture. Parishioners were requested to register for the series.

Our Lady of Fatima

Paranews, February 15, announces that the statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be honored during February 14-21 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert J. Facovelli. Rosary will be recited each evening at seven. Though we record this beautiful practice merely once in this history, it is a continuing occurrence bearing witness to the love for Mary among St. John's Parishioners.

Paranews Reports

Beginning Saturday, March 7, the faithful of the diocese of Gary may fulfill the obligation of attending Mass on Sundays or holy days of obligation on the previous evening. (*Paranews,* March 1) . . . Regular Sunday collection for the first Sunday in March tops the $4,000 mark.

Our Liturgy

The liturgy and theology of baptism underline its public nature in worship. Consequently, we shall celebrate this sacrament publicly on the second Sunday of each month at 2:00 P.M. (*Paranews,* March 22) . . . *Paranews,* on April 26, focuses attention on the Offertory Procession. It purposes to express the unity of the people with the priest. The family offering the gifts represent all the people. The gifts symbolize our effort, ourselves, and bear witness to our submission to God in the Eucharistic sacrifice.

Czechoslovakian Singers

On May 12-13, singers and dancers from Czechoslovakia performed in our Marian Auditorium.

Ecumenical Note

People of the Whiting-Robertsdale area are welcomed to St. John's parish Sunday, June 7, at 4:00 P.M., as part of a series of visits from other denominations with a view to better understanding and respect among the various denominational groups. The program includes a visit of about twenty minutes in the church, followed by a social gathering in the Panel Room (*Paranews,* June 7)

A similar meeting was held at the First United Methodist Church on Community Court, June 21.

Scholastic Award

Jeanette Polance and Larry Cuculic received the American Legion highest scholastic awards for the eighth grade graduating class of St. John's. (*Paranews,* June 14)

Gracious and Efficient

A note of thanks to Mrs. Joseph Semancik for twenty-five years of devoted secretarial work in our rectory. May God bless and reward her. (*Paranews,* June 21)

Distinguished Visitors

Our Bishop joined with about sixty priests to celebrate the Feast of the Precious Blood, July 1, at St. John's.

On Sunday, June 28, Monsignor Nahalka, Director of the Slovak Institute in Rome, preached in our church. (*Paranews,* July 5)

Ad Multos Annos

This year of 1970 marked the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Molson, of Mr. and Mrs. William Kaminsky, and of Mr. and Mrs. John Repay.

Parable of Priestly Life

Father John Kostik died on Sunday, August 9, 1970, at St. Catherine Hospital. He was stricken in the early evening in the rectory garden where he had gone to recite his beads. He was seventy five years old.

Father Kostik was born August 29, 1894, in Tovrne Nad Odave, Austria-Hungary. He came to America in 1908, and the next year entered St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer),

to study for the priesthood. He graduated from St. Joseph's in 1915, and then entered St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio, where he developed a remarkable poetic gift and an interest in science. He contributed fine verse to the student publication *Nuntius Aulae* and the *Precious Blood Messenger*.

On May 5, 1921, in a class of twelve, he was ordained priest by the Most Reverend Henry Moeller, Archbishop of Cincinnati. His first assignment returned him to St. Joseph's College, where his interest in science led his superiors to assign him to graduate study at the University of Wisconsin to earn a Master's degree in biology. But he gave up what could well have been a brilliant career (as a scientist or a poet, or both) to become an assistant pastor at St. John's in 1925. (Cf. *Fifty Years of Grace,* p. 43 ff) He became pastor of St. John's in 1927 and remained until 1945.

His religious community entrusted him with many responsible tasks. He was a provincial consultor, rector of the seminary (1945 to 1947), and pioneer missionary in South America (1947 to 1962). His last years were spent at St. John's, serving in auxiliary roles until his retirement, August 29, 1969, as pastor emeritus. He constantly served the South American missions and awakened a vast commitment to this apostolic ideal in the faithful at St. John. He grew old gracefully, ministering to the children and grandchildren of those whom he had directed and guided in the early days of his pastorate.

The writer, who was a student with Father Kostik in college and seminary, and associated with him until his death, still stands in wonderment at the good he did, without any self-glorification. Father John's life is symbolically expressed in the offertory prayer:

> Blessed are You, Lord, God of all creation. Through Your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the bread of life.

At St. John's many priests concelebrated the Mass of Resurrection with Bishop Grutka; at Carthagena Bishop Marling offered the holy Sacrifice with many of the priests of the Precious Blood Society. Bishop Grutka delivered the homily in St. John's. The writer, as classmate of Father John, gave the homily at Carthagena.

Father John's older brother died a short time before; four sisters survive. With them we share our grief: Mrs. Helen Carroll and Mrs. Emma Toth, both of Youngstown, Ohio, Anna Kostik of Czechoslovakia, and Sister Estherine of the Society of the Precious Blood.

Father Michael Homco Dies

Father Michael Homco died on the morning of November 12, following on the death of Father Kostik by three months.

Born in Whiting on November 7, 1921, he received his grade school education at St. John's school, then entered Brunnerdale High School Seminary in Canton, Ohio. After two years of college study at St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer), he entered St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio, for philosophy and theology in 1941. He was ordained priest on May 15, 1947.

The first assignment was at St. Joseph's Church, Wapakoneta, Ohio. From there he went to Holy Cross parish in Detroit, where he served three years. There followed two years as assistant at St. John's, before he began his long service as chaplain in the United States Air Force. After thirteen years he retired, due to illness, with the rank of Major. His final year was spent at St. John's laboring gently in his illness, until the angel of death called him home.

A fine sense of humor, combined with tense earnestness and a deep sense of spiritual values, fitted him for his task as a priest for all occasions.

Bishop Grutka offered the funeral Mass, many priests concelebrating with him, in St. John's Church on November 13. The Bishop also gave the homily. Father Michael was buried at Carthagena, Ohio. Father Herbert Linenberger, with many other concelebrating priests, offered the holy Sacrifice in the Chapel of the Assumption. Father Robert Gaertner delivered the homily.

Paranews Reports — 1971

1971 is a year of anniversaries. *Paranews,* through the months, extends special congratulations to eight couples marking either golden or silver wedding anniversaries in 1971. The *golden* jubilarians are: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Danko, Mr. and Mrs. John Matura and Mr. and Mrs. John Pockuba. The *silver* jubilarians are: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Manik, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Leo Olen, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Semancik, Mr. and Mrs. John Senko, and Mr. and Mrs. Skertich.

The pastor arranges to visit older Slovak families to assure that their spiritual needs are cared for . . . Among the eleven girl scouts of the Whiting area receiving the Marian Award are seven from our parish: Melody Bialon, Eileen Boyle, Ann Marie Bugyis, Barbara Eski, Judy Menzl, Kathy Wagner and Jean Zajac. (*Paranews,* March 7)

Sock Hop

Paranews, March 28, under the rubric *CYO News*: We are sponsoring a *Sock Hop,* in St. John's gym. The musical beat will be provided by the "ORE." The writer has been told that *Sock Hop* means identifying with the shoeless in sundry dance movements. The event recurs occasionally in the *Paranews* and deserves at least one mention in our jubilee book for the mystification of the uninitiated. "Donation at the entrance was $1.25," so that one "could shake to the music." (*Paranews,* April 11)

Public Baptism

A program for public baptism is suggested in the *Paranews* for April 18, 1971. A year later (*Paranews,* March 12, 1972), the following procedure is decided upon: Besides the regular private baptism which will still be held at 11:30 Sunday mornings, one Sunday Mass will be set aside each month for those who wish a more public ceremony.

Changes in Pastoral Staff

The *Precious Blood Community* list in *Paranews* of April 18 includes for the first time our two Brothers, Leo Utrup and Edward Lampa. In the June 20 issue we note that Brother Edward is no longer at St. John's. He is now at Brunnerdale Seminary continuing his studies.

The *Paranews* for June 20 welcomes Father Thomas Brenberger as new assistant. Ordained June 4, 1966, he spent a year in special parochial activity in Detroit, then served among the Indians in parishes near LaOroya, Peru.

Memorial Mass for Monsignor Mlynarovich

On the feast of Cyril and Methodius, July 7, the St. John's Choir joined in the solemn liturgy of the Resurrection offered in our church for the noted and beloved priest Clement Mlynarovich. (*Paranews,* June 27)

The July 4th Parade

We want to congratulate Marian Theatre Guild, says *Paranews* for July 11, on placing first with their float in the Fourth of July Parade. Report has it that there is a search going on for two clowns in particular: one who carried a leaky camera; the other who was very free with lipstick. We are also proud of the floats entered by the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the C.Y.O.

Paranews for August

The Parish Council tabulated the ballots of the August First election of two members to the school board. Mr. John Klochan and Dr. Joseph Ritzi were elected to these important posts. "Congratulations to them and our sincere thanks to Mr. Rudy Zajac and Mr. John Boyle who have given their dedicated service on the board since its inception in 1967.

Daniel Dubec, son of Peter and Helen Dubec, will make his profession as Brother Michael in the Franciscan Order at Seven Dolors Shrine, Valparaiso, on August 15.

Brother George Blackney, C.PP.S., joins the parish staff where he will be occupied with liturgy and music.

Father Daniel Schaefer, on August 12, is elected Moderator General of the Society of the Precious Blood. The election took place during the Society's General Assembly held in Salzburg, Austria.

Brother James Morganthaler, son of Mrs. Mary A. (Sinal) Morganthaler, will be received and invested in the Franciscan Novitiate on August 29th at St. Paschal's Franciscan Friary, Westmont, Illinois.

The Legion of Mary celebrated its world-wide golden anniversary this year of 1971. Since St. John's praesidium is the oldest in the diocese, it hosted the celebration. Bishop Grutka offered the Jubilee Mass in our church on August 29.

Mr. Donald Kometz leaves his post as choir director at St. John where his work has been distinguished.

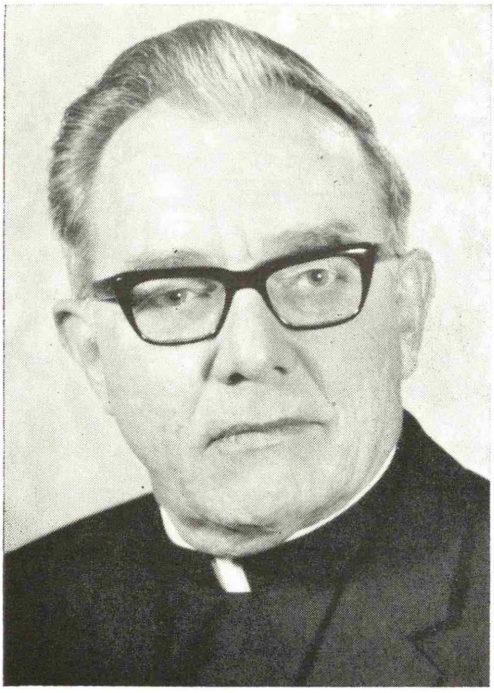
Chilean Mission

Father Bernard Mores, C.PP.S., veteran of twenty-three years of missionary work in Chile, presented the story of the Precious Blood Fathers' efforts in the Chilean Missions to St. John's parish on August 15. *Paranews,* August 22, informs us that "the children of one family brought in the loose change they had saved as a sacrifice for the missions. On Stanton Avenue the children in the 2000 block had a raffle and bake sale and handed over $50.00 for the missions in memory of Father Kostik."

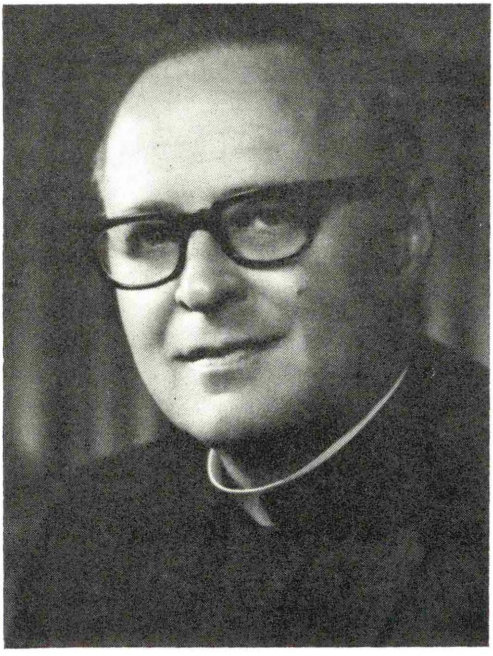
Parish Census

The summer *Paranews* refers at times to the parish census. Mr. John Menscik, who was occupied with this important pastoral effort, we are told in the August 15 *Paranews,* has been on retreat, and will be making his final profession in the Society of the Precious Blood today.

C.PP.S. LEADERS



Father Daniel Schaefer
Moderator General



Father Charles Bricher
Provincial
Cincinnati Province

Our Sympathy

A brother of parishioner Matt Justak, Brother Reginald, C.S.C., died this week and was buried at Notre Dame, Indiana. (*Paranews,* August 29)

Involvement

One balmy autumn day, *Paranews* for October 3 informs us, class control abruptly challenged our grade school teachers. First, the weather was unusually warm; then came Father Wohlwend riding the Fire Department's Snorkle to the top of the flag pole. It was not temper nor excess of patriotism. Simply, the line holding the flag jumped the pulley track. Thanks to the Fire Department!

In a more serious vein the same issue expresses thanks to the following for donations for the purchase of our Mass vestments: Miss Mary Jalovecky, Mr. and Mrs. John Polance, Miss Bessie Uhrin, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gerba, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lovasko.

Thanks also to Mr. John Miklusak, the owner of the lot on 119th Street directly across from the school auditorium. Through her kindness and through the work done by Justak and Sons Company, this area is now available for parish parking. (*Paranews,* October 10)

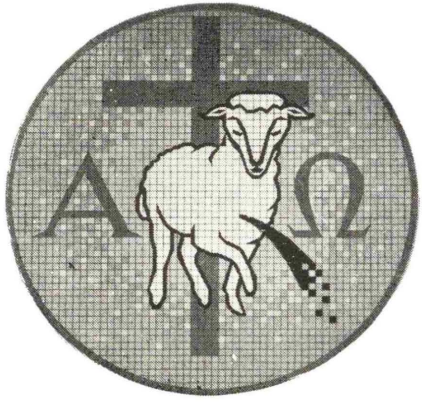
Congratulations to Robert Menzl, son of Roland and Lillian Menzl, for earning the *Eagle Merit Badge* in scouting, a very rare honor. (*Paranews,* October 24)

Come Pray With Me

Spiritually heartening at this close of 1971 is the frequent reference to the spirit of prayer among our people of God. "The leadership from the Parish Liturgy Committee is really inspiring" is just one of the comments among many. The spiritual warmth of the weekly "Come Pray With Me" referring to the *Forty Hours Eucharistic Prayer* should give us some hint of the source of blessings bestowed upon St. John's parish in these last seventy-five years. We close this year 1971 with the simple *Schedule For Forty Hours.*

Solemn Opening: Monday, October 18 at 8:45
Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Solemn Closing: Tuesday, October 19 at 7:30 P.M.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Will Continue Throughout Monday Night and Tuesday Morning.



PART THREE

THE SPECIAL AREAS

1. GOD'S AUXILIARIES

A. The Sisters of Providence: Our School

B. Our Brothers

C. The Parish Service

The Rectory Staff

The Parish Center

The Care of God's House

God's Acre

A. SISTERS OF PROVIDENCE: OUR SCHOOL

The story of St. John's School forms an integral part of the history of St. John's parish. In this first section of *Special Areas,* then, we give the school the place of preference because of its unique contribution to the parish. It affords us the opportunity to offer special tribute to the work of the teachers, the Sisters of Providence. Our tribute also extends to the splendid contribution made by our lay teachers and other groups to the history of the school and the activities of the Parish Center, much of which is dealt with elsewhere in these pages.

The Sisters of Providence
Saint Mary - of - the - Woods, Indiana

The Congregation of the Sisters of Providence was established in France, in 1806, by Rev. J. F. Dujarie, pastor of Ruille-sur-Loir, for the twofold purpose of teaching and hospital work. In 1839 the Sisters were invited to come to America — to what was then the diocese of Vincennes, Indiana. The next year, on October 22, Sister Theodore Guerin, superior-general, arrived with five sisters to form the congregation's first American foundation at Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

Our golden jubilee book devoted a mere page to the early history and purpose of the Sisters, plus a list of the *Sisters Who Taught At St. John's* (p. 93ff). In this diamond jubilee book we mention the first "new school" and Sisters' home, and the first Sisters who comprised the teaching staff! The four-room building used as Sisters' home and school soon showed that its limitations were taxed. The enrollment increased rapidly — from 75 in 1901 to 336 in 1910. The pastor provided for needed expansion by purchas-

ing an old public school building and joining it to the original school. By 1915 the school had nine classrooms and a basement room. Each year when a new room was opened in the school, an additional Sister was added to the faculty so that in 1920, ten Sisters were needed.

At the approach of the golden jubilee in 1947, all hoped that the celebration would be marked by the erection of a new school. The trust of the people and the hopes of the faculty and students were rewarded when the diocesan authorities and the provincial of the Precious Blood Society gave their consent for the new building. The demolition of the old gym, the first step in the preparation, was almost complete when the Sisters left for Saint Mary-of-the-Woods in June of 1948.

On their return in August, the Sisters found the work progressing. The old saying, "a watched pot never boils," proved to be untrue here. No building was more zealously watched and admired, and yet it came to so perfect a fulfillment that in 1949 it was ready for inspection. On March 5, 1950, Bishop Noll officiated at the blessing and dedication of the school. At the Open House which followed the dedication some 3,000 people visited the new building.

The new convent followed in its turn. In 1950-51 the erection progressed rapidly, and on May 13, 1951, the convent — no adjectives are too generous to describe it — was blessed. The last Mass said in the old convent was offered by Father Smolar on May 19, 1951, for Father Benedict Rajcany, pioneer pastor of St. John's. The first Mass in the new convent was celebrated on the first Friday of June.

The installation of the elevator, a complete cafeteria, and the ample assembly rooms made it a pleasure to open the school to the second annual institute for the parochial teachers of the Hammond Deanery in 1953. One hundred and seventy Sisters attended the program.

Interest in Missionary Work

Prayer and alms for the missions were advocated by the Sisters, not only for their own missions in China and those of Precious Blood Fathers in South America, but also for the U.S. Indian and Negro missions. Added interest came through the experience of Sister Joseph Henry, local superior in 1928, who had just returned from a four-year stay with the Sisters of Providence in China. Sister Theresa Eleanor, in 1936, left St. John's to assist at the fine black school, St. Rita's in Indianapolis, which the Sisters of Providence at that time staffed.

Liturgical Movement

Every change in liturgical development was presented to St. John's pupils as a fine advance in the knowledge of the faith. In 1968, great attention was directed to a better understanding of the Mass; each day's religion class devoted some time to the reading and explanation of the theme of the Mass of the following day. Now with the increased emphasis on greater participation, the pupils are at home with the movement. They prepare their own offertory and thanksgiving petitions and make suggestions for the liturgical hymns chosen. Under Father Kalicky, Mr. Donald Kometz and Miss Shirley Stasny, they have made great progress in understanding and participating in the Mass.

The Lay Men and Women of the Faculty

Grateful mention should be made of the very capable lay teachers who have worked as one with the Sisters. Miss Marian Biesen who took over the fourth grade girls in 1924-25 heads the list of the steady succession of lay teachers on whom the Sisters relied.

The shortage of vocations to the teaching orders affected the Sisters of Providence as well as other communities. Yet the number of Sisters on the faculty remained regularly 15 to 17. In 1950-51, Miss Mary Buksar was appointed for kindergarten work, and Mrs. Edward Gallant and Miss Dolores Grenchik taught the third and fourth grades respectively. In 1960-61, fifteen Sisters and nine lay instructors met the demands of the enrollment of 1030 students. At present, eight Sisters, eighteen laymen and laywomen, and one C.PP.S. Brother, George Blackney, teacher of liturgical music, are on the faculty.

From the beginning the Sisters seized every opportunity to advance their proficiency in teaching. Degrees and license requirements were completed at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, and then followed by graduate courses at universities like Notre Dame, Indiana State at Terra Haute, Loyola in Chicago, and Indiana at Bloomington. Changes in licensing requirements called upon the Sisters to meet new demands by attending workshops in Education, Speech Therapy, Visual Education, and Contemporary Civilization. In lectures on Education during the summer schools, they studied new methods of presenting grade school work. The lay faculty did likewise, profiting from every opportunity.

At St. John's, experiments in departmentalizing grades 4 to 8 were found quite satisfactory. Ungraded primary



Primary Grades

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL FACULTY

Junior High School



classes for the three years, 1968-71, allowed the pupils to make progress according to individual ability. A reading laboratory for learners was inaugurated in September of 1971. This involved conferences with the parents on any visual or aural defects of the children. The new approach has been of great help in mastering speech defects as well.

In the earlier years, private lessons in music were given by Sister Florena Marie, who arranged two recitals a year for her private pupils. Then, in keeping with changing trends, music and art became straight curriculum subjects appearing on the program side by side with arithmetic and language. World events in science penetrated the classroom as well. Sister Marie Justin Nicholson arranged the Science Fair of 1967, a cooperative venture. The faculty set up booths and exhibits for the seventh and eighth grade projects, under Mr. Robert Valencik and Mr. Patrick Conley. Posters, drawings, and illustrations showed that a timely interest in science had taken hold. The astronauts had not stepped on the moon in 1967, but the boys were awake to the preparation which culminated in 1969.

In the year 1969 St. John's school underwent a thorough State inspection and was given the first class commission, indicating that our school met all the standards of a top rated school.

The Fine Arts Fair of 1968 demonstrated how much varied ability the classroom instruction had developed. Grades 1 and 2 were taught art by their classroom teachers; grades 3 and 4 by Mrs. Delinck; and grades 5 to 8 by an art specialist, Miss Freiburger, who helped arrange exhibits for this Fair with the help of the faculty. Pupils kept a portfolio of their own work and made a selection of three productions in any media which they wished to show at the Fair. Ribbon awards stimulated efforts for another year.

Sister Nancy Jaussaud arranged for art exhibits in the spring of 1971. Exhibits showed work in beautiful design, drawings, the use of charcoal, water colors — sandcasting techniques, making of puppets, designs in plastic, sand and paper sculpture.

Knowing the innate love of music and color characteristic of the Slovak people, the Fine Arts Fair also demonstrated the children's abilities in singing and dancing. Old songs and dances keeping alive the Slovak tradition appeared on the program along with modern forms of dancing, and today's popular songs and music.

During World Wars I and II, war bonds and savings stamps helped to stimulate patriotism. As the years progressed, the Korean War and the Vietnam conflict called upon young men to respond to the draft. A memorial plaque lists the names of the young men who entered the service. It should not be forgotten that once upon a time many of them were little boys learning their first lessons about their duty to America in the classrooms of St. John's.

On November 11, 1970, the entire school participated in the observance of Veterans' Day by the presentation of the American flag. The flag which had flown over the nation's capital was given to Father Michael Homco, Air Force Chaplain. Father John Kalicky opened the ceremonies with a prayer. Mr. Edward Puplava, a Vietnam war veteran was the guest speaker.

The Home and School Association has been very helpful in providing many useful services in the audio-visual center, library, nurses' room and learning center. Through this endeavor many overhead projectors, filmstrips, globes, maps, and record players were provided for teachers use.

The long association of the Sisters of Providence with the parish of St. John provides grateful memories for the Precious Blood Fathers who succeeded Father Rajcany. Our two jubilee books reflect this association. Due to the pressure of space, however, it is impossible to add here the long list of Sisters who have served at St. John's. There are nine columns, single spaced. We can list only the Sisters of the Jubilee, that is, the Sisters who celebrated the jubilee year of their religious profession while at St. John's.

Silver Jubilee
Sister Thomas Loretta
Sister Mary Canice
Sister Ann Jerome
Sister Margaret Ellen
Sister Mary Gilbert
Sister Marie Eleanor

Golden Jubilee
Sister Mary Gabriel
Sister Alma Cecile
Sister Mary Andrea
Sister Mary Jerome
Sister Mary Alexis

Diamond Jubilee (60 Years)
Sister Catherine Rose

B. OUR BROTHERS

St. Gaspar, whose name brightens many pages of this jubilee record, thought of the Brothers in his Precious Blood Society as aides of his missionary priests. The name given the Brothers was *fratres inservientes* — serving brothers.

This may well have reflected something of the aristocratic attitude of mind prevalent in Italy at the time. But we find the same attitude in our American Society for many years. Today, rather than to cynically criticize the designation of *fratres inservientes* as an aristocratic relic of a past day, it would be much better to broaden and deepen the concept — for all of us are *fratres inservientes,* brother-servants to Christ, each rendering the service to which he is called by God's grace and the direction of the Gospel authority which is reflected in counsel and command of superiors.

In the Precious Blood Society the writer has known intimately many Brothers whose lives were so deeply steeped in this "faith of Christ," that he could speak of their virtue in terms usually reserved for the saints — *heroic virtue.* Among these we mention with reverence and affection Brother William Schalk. In God's providence we look upon him as a forerunner of the Brothers at St. John.

Brother William's task at St. John's was to tell the parishoners about the *Precious Blood Messenger* published by the Society with the twofold purpose of spreading devotion to the Blood of Redemption and of providing funds for the Society's good works, including the education of its students and the care of its aged members. Through promotions of subscriptions to the little monthly (and a very thrifty life) Brother William made a considerable contribution to these funds, and through his truly exemplary life bore personal witness to what it means to love and to offer to the Father the Precious Blood of his beloved Son.

Brother William was a victim of his own zeal for work. He fell ill while working at St. John's parish and was taken to St. Catherine's Hospital, where he died on April 2, 1960 at the age of 77 years, 57 of which were spent in the religious life. The funeral Mass was offered at St. John's Church and again in St. Charles Seminary at Carthagena, Ohio, where his body now rests.

Brother Edward Wendeln succeeded Brother William in the interest of the *Precious Blood Messenger.* He came to St. John's bi-annually until 1968. Later he was transferred to the Society's Generalate at Rome. He is presently stationed at the Shrine of the Sorrowful Mother near Bellevue, Ohio. The writer recalls that Brother Edward, a former student of his, contributed a special paper on *Redeeming Time* for the third Precious Blood Study Week in 1968. It is significant that he was the first of our Brothers to make such a contribution.

On April 1971 Brother Leo Utrup came to St. John's parish by permanent assignment. His duties are concerned

with the lawn and flowers and janitorial tasks. Seeing him at work one thinks of the old expression *factotum,* which the dictionary defines as a person having many diverse activities or responsibilities. His extraordinary expertise at handling a car is due to a few years experience in the maddening traffic of the City of Rome. In a special sense Brother Leo represents the post-Vatican-II Brother: On the feast of the Precious Blood, 1971, he received from Bishop Grutka the privilege of distributing Holy Communion at the parish.

Brother George Blackney took up residence at St. John's in August of 1971. He had a very busy schedule: he was parish organist, had charge of the children's choir, and of the parish's liturgical music program, and taught liturgical music in St. John's School. He holds a degree from the School of Liturgical Music, St. Joseph's College, (Rensselaer).

On August 16, 1972, Brother George moved from St. John's to pursue graduate studies at Eastman School of Music, Rochester, N. Y. He was succeeded by Brother Gerald Montana as organist, in charge of adult and children's choirs, and teacher of liturgical music at St. John's school. Brother Gerard also has an A.B. in Music from St. Joseph's College.

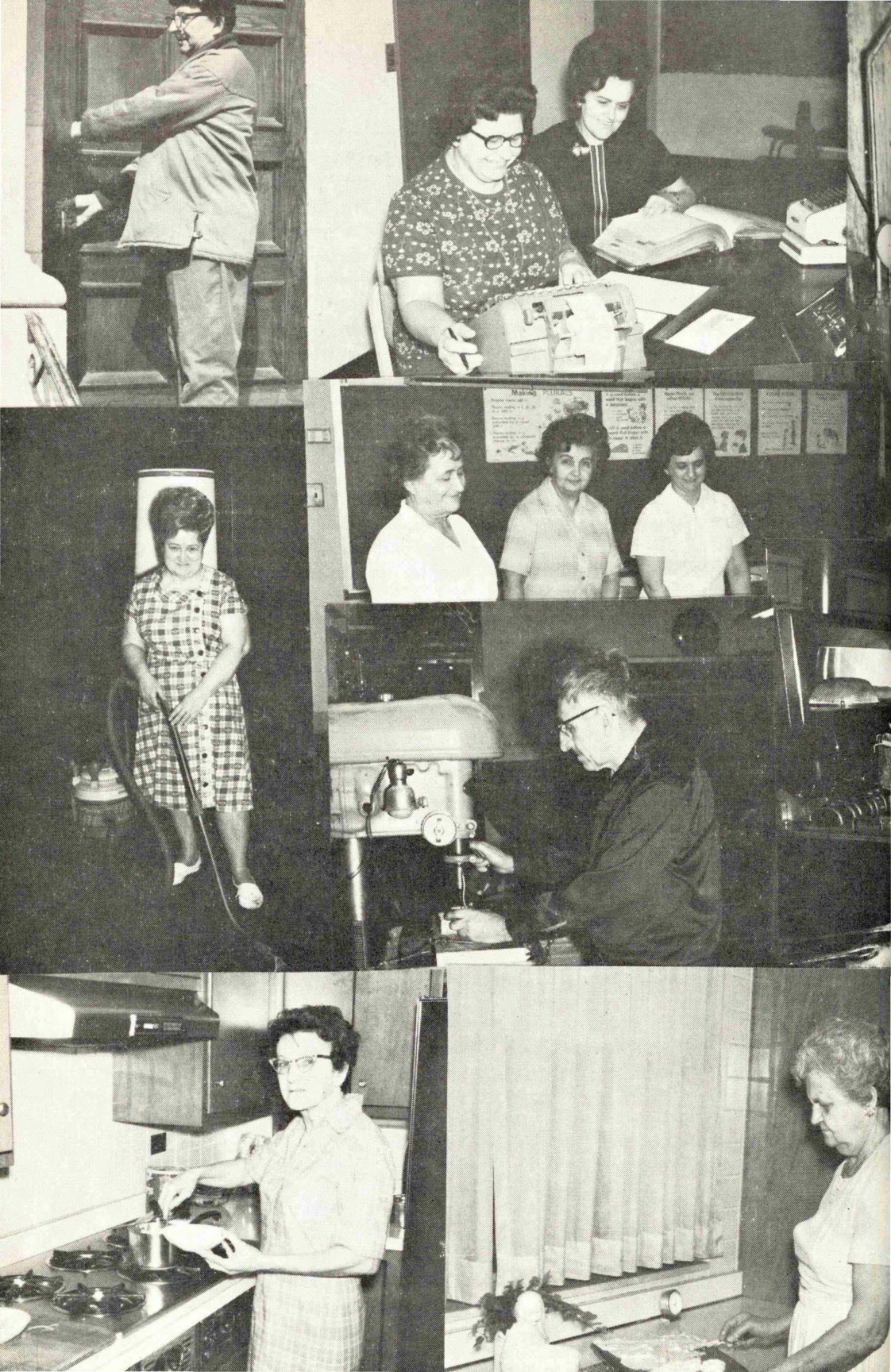
Brother Thomas Bohman likewise joined our pastoral staff this fall for a period of six months in the Brother's Special Formation Program. His work includes classes in history and physical education.

Brother Edward Lampa, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lampa of St. John's, spent a period of time at St. John's (September, 1970 to June, 1971) in order to acquire a familiarity with parochial life. He graduated from Brunnerdale High School Seminary in the spring of 1968 and is now in the Brother Formation Program of the Society.

C. THE PARISH SERVICE

The Rectory Staff: Domestic Service

St. Paul, model of pastoral care, frequently refers to the women who assisted him in his apostolic labors. In the letter to Romans he calls Phoebe "our sister." He also speaks of the Christian women at whose home the Christian congregation gathered (Rom 16:5). With this thought in mind we devote a few pages to the apostolate of domestic service. In the context of *God's Auxiliaries* we place the dedicated service of God's helpers in two distinct areas: care of the house, kitchen, laundry; and the secretariat.




NO SMOKING

The first jubilee book recounted the story of Katherine Wade and Mary Schneider, and this present history again refers to them, particularly to Mary's long years of service. In her later years Mary was assisted by *Mrs. George (Ann) Kuchma.* Ann's association with the domestic staff began in 1950, and her responsibilities continued through the transition from the old parish home to the present. Now Ann is mainly concerned with the ironing and cleaning chores. She recalls with a degree of nostalgia the old days when she waited at table for the parish suppers, "as we called them those days." She recalls too, the less than affluent days of the "soup kitchen" in Benedict Hall. "For a nickel you could get all the soup you could eat." A lifetime member of St. John's, Ann attended the parish school, as did her children after her. Her husband, now retired, worked for Standard Oil. She shared in much of the history found in these pages and has vivid memories of the past, including the trip to St. Joseph's College with Mary to pick mushrooms — when Mary answered her Maker's final call.

After Mary's death *Mrs. Barbara Fasiang* took over the cooking for a short period of time. Following Barbara was *Mrs. Mary Molson,* who continued the task for about eight years. Mrs. Molson had also been active in the kitchen of the parochial center.

A frequent and faithful helper in the culinary department is *Mrs. Mary Mores,* whose son Bernard is serving in the South American mission, a mission that Mary also shares and promotes. We have commented elsewhere on the activities of the Zabrecky family. At this point we add the name of *Mrs. Julia Zabrecky* who assisted in the parish house, together with *Mrs. Mary Gaspar,* in caring for the laundry. For the year 1968 our chronicle notes that *Vicki Miller* assisted in the kitchen for about half a year.

At present in our parish kitchen *Mrs. Helen Price* and *Mrs. Helen Kmetz* are active. Mrs. Kmetz is from Whiting and has been in the parish all her life. After the death of her husband (Feb. 7, 1965) she shared the responsibilities of domestic service at St. John's. She informed the writer that she's "an early bird," preparing the breakfasts (note the plural) for the Fathers and Brothers. She assists in the house work and laundry tasks with a gentle and quiet efficiency. Mrs. Price had been active for nine years in the Sisters' convent culinary department before she joined the domestic staff at the rectory in 1969. Helen joined the parish about 1927. Her husband died in 1954. Now with great capability she cares for the kitchen and the diverse tastes of the Fathers and Brothers. And she too recalls many interesting

events of the past — even the detail that one VIP guest has a great relish for "Spaetzeln."

To this dedicated group we add the name of Sister Patricia Louis Quinn, S.P., who teaches in St. John's School (4th grade). For four years years she has also assisted capably in God's kitchen at our parish house.

The Rectory Staff: Secretariat

Under the rubric *secretariat* we limit our account to only a few lines and names. It is not that achievement is insignificant. In fact, these few lines cannot convey even faintly the author's dependence on the secretariat nor the corporate necessity of the secretariat in the parish activity. As to the jubilee book, the secretariat is really the patient and efficient co-author.

Historically, according to Father Homco, *Mrs. Joseph Semancik* was the first parish secretary. She is *Marge.* Later came *Mrs. Irene (Gregorovich) George* who was active in the task for several years. Our first jubilee book has a picture of Marge, Irene, and Blanche (*Mrs. William Kenwood*). Then, under Father Brenkus, follow *Dorothy Kasper* and, for a year, *Bernadette Gulassa.* Thereupon Marge, who had continued work in the office part-time, devoted full time to a task which is very time consuming. *Mrs. Thomas Ryan* and *Mrs. Thomas Krull* also devoted many years of volunteer service in the secretariat.

Now Marge and *Mrs. Barbara Hmurovich* oversee a multiverse operation which reflects the great diversity of activities of greater St. John's, a diversity far beyond Father Benedict's grandest dreams. We can only hope that their dedication and efficiency will be reflected in this jubilee history which owes so much to their cooperation.

The Parish Center

The Center, opened in 1950, was first placed in the care of *Miss Lillian Jefchak,* who remained for about six years. We recall that Lillian was responsible for the artistry in the Kindergarten Room with its fascinating Snow White theme. She is also much involved in our jubilee preparations. Some time after the addition to the center opened, in 1955, *Mrs. Florence (Kalicky) Gazda* took charge. After two or three years she was succeeded by her husband, *John Gazda,* who was in charge until 1970. At present the direction of the center is under *Mrs. Robert Arnold* and her daughter, *Diane.*

In these later years the task has become increasingly complex, involving not only the children's lunches but the

supervision of a great variety of events. For years now the center's service has expanded far beyond the parish needs and concerns, to offer a wide regional service.

Care Of God's House

From St. John's earliest days the sacred vestments and linens — all that belongs to church and altar — were a special concern of dedicated parish women. The jubilee book (1947) has a "sharp" picture of a group of seven women "ironing the church linens," and also a picture of *Mrs. Mary Henrikson* and *Mrs. Mary Kasperan* "making vestments." Both have gone to their reward. Following them with equal dedication are *Mrs. George Opat* who took over the role of sacristan from Mrs. Kasperan until illness rendered the task impossible, and succeeding her, *Mrs. Susan Markovich,* the aunt of Father Richard Elo.

Our present record notes that *Mrs. Lillian Semancik* is concerned with tidying up the church each week. Groups of women volunteers thoroughly refurbish God's house on special "church-cleaning" days..

The sacristies, vestments, linens, candles, and sacred vessels are tenderly cared for by *Mrs. Clarence Hittle* and *Miss Mary Ryan,* with occasional assistance from *Mrs. Vincent Kaminsky* and *Mrs. Edward Jamorzik.* Vigil light stands are cared for by *Mrs. Michael Papach.*

For over two decades St. John's "church and lawn man" has been *Joseph Tomko.* In a delightful interview he informed this writer that he has always been a member of St. John's parish, and attended St. John's school. He and his wife Marilyn have five lovely daughters, two of whom are in college, three still in St. John's school. Since 1950 he has cared for church and lawn, keeping them clean and bright. He recalls "way back" when he helped in the theatre work — and — a point of special pride, that he knew Father Kostik well.

God's Holy Acre

Because we are united with Christ in this life through our faith in him, we hope to be united with him forever in the "resurrection of the body." For this reason the Church has always prayed — and we have taught our children to pray: — "I believe in the resurrection of the body." Our funeral Mass is now called the Mass of the Resurrection because it is the Mass for the dead who are to rise again. Jesus told Martha, sister of Lazarus whom he was to raise from the dead: "If any one believes in me, even though he dies

he will live" (Jn 11:25). He tells us all that any one who eats his flesh and drinks his blood in the Eucharist "has eternal life and I shall raise him up on the last day" (Jn 6:54). St. Paul, the great Apostle of the Resurrection, tells us that Christ was the first to rise from the dead and that our resurrection comes through him. The human body is buried, like a seed in the soil. "Whatever you sow in the ground has to die before it is given new life" (1 Cor 15: 36).

This Christian faith in the resurrection is the basis for our conviction that those whom we lay to rest should be placed in sacred ground, the Christian cemetery. For this reason St. John's parish has tenderly nourished and cared for St. John's Cemetery. It was established in the first years of the parish existence, in 1904, as a Catholic cemetery. Before — from 1889 — it had been Lutheran burial ground.

The name *Kochis* is associated with the cemetery from 1909, when Jacob J. Kochis became the caretaker, until the present time. He discharged the duties of caretaker faithfully for 53 years until he retired in 1957. His son, Joseph J. Kochis, succeeded him and remained in charge until his death in September of 1963. Thereupon his wife, Ann and her son-in-law, Thomas A. Bukowski, assumed the duties which they are faithfully performing at the present time.

The cemetery has expanded throughout the years: from 1904 until 1952 it occupied ten acres. In 1952 ten more acres were added. Now the twenty acres are beautifully developed, so that St. John Cemetery with its large central Crucifixion, its individual or family monuments, its carefully kept lawn areas, and its flowers are a true expression of the faith of our parish. Throughout our jubilee history we frequently refer to the Memorial Mass offered every year on May 30.

A few statistical facts should give our readers an idea of the importance of St. John's Cemetery: In 1945 there were 128 burials, in 1970 there were 246. The average number of burials from 1945 to 1970 is about 195 annually. These figures include burials from various parishes in the area.

Mrs. Ann Kochis, who graciously supplied this information, gives us the following details as to the methods of caretaking. All graves are still dug by hand, though recently some new devices have been acquired, which may "modernize" this task. Among the modern equipment recently purchased is a tractor with a ready dump trailer for the easier disposal of excess sand. Likewise, guidelines have recently been put into effect for better maintenance and appearance of the sacred grounds.

The Germans have a term for cemetery: *God's Acre.* In many places the cemetery surrounds the church build-

ing. It is part of the Church Ground. Though St. John's Cemetery is some distance from our church, it is part of our Church Ground. It is God's Holy Acre. With the Church we pray for all those who are buried in this sacred ground: Jesus, risen from the dead, grant that they will rise again to share in your glory.

ST. JOHN'S HEROIC WAR DEAD

Albert Ballon	John Slivka
William Bednar	Richard Smith
Marshall Biesen	Victor Spilly
John Bodnar	William Spilly
Edward Brzinski	Stephen Tomko
George Gajdos	Lawrence Vidovich
Arthur Garay	William Walko
Joseph Klochan	Eugene Zack
James Leonard	Clarence Mihalso
Frank Mores	James Kochis
Stephen Mores	Robert Jurkowski
Stephen Penciak	Richard Bubala
Loddy Rusko	Michael Kurella
John Sinal	Michael D. Miller

Rev. Michael J. Homco, C.PP.S.

2. CHURCH SUPPORT

The story of St. John's growth is bound up with the generosity of its people and their realization that material goods are God's gifts to be used in service. The spirit of giving at St. John's truly bears the mark of magnanimity, the virtue which turns man's efforts to great and outstanding deeds. The material support is only a part of that effort — perhaps we should say it is the most visible evidence. The parish building program, support of Noll Institute, also the Slovak Institute in Rome, assistance to the South American missions — all bear witness to a generosity far beyond the "line of duty."

In 1955 Father Brenkus sought what seemed an extraordinary means to acquire additional funds for the growing burden of expanding construction — the *car raffle,* which in the following seventeen years garnered a half million dollars, let us say "painlessly." The success of the "raffle" was largely due to a wide interest extending far beyond the parish, and the well-organized cooperation of many individuals. We might mention especially that the women of the parish did yeoman service in sorting out addresses, picking

up and delivering the tickets. In all this there is a democratic clearance; the people repeatedly voted to continue the "raffle."

Taking a more specifically social nature were the *parish festivals* — three in the last twenty-five years. These were really parish family reunions on a grand scale. Income was secondary to "togetherness." Many who had moved from the parish returned for these festivals. There were prizes, and they were generous and not based on the desire for financial returns.

After all this is said, the ordinary or regular support of parochial needs (church, school, parish home, mission) is still essential though it may lack the glamor of raffle or festival. Whatever be the procedure, however, St. John's has always responded, as the brief summary of our "financial status" makes abundantly clear:

The Report

Today the cost of St. John's property amounts to $3,373,000. Its replacement would amount to $6,000,000 or more. Although the first fifty years of the parish were remarkable, the following twenty-five should be regarded as fantastic by future generations that may study our history. During this period the Parochial Center was constructed in two stages. The first stage embracing school, convent and panel room, begun in 1948, cost $1,026,000. The second stage containing gym and auditorium, and added classrooms, begun in 1955 cost $1,160,000. The rectory and administration facility, built in 1967, cost $284,000. The truly remarkable feature about the financial history of this period of building, is that the present debt is only $331,104. And only about $20,000 of this amount represents a debt directly connected with the physical properties of the parish.

What does the future, financially, hold in store for St. John's?

Contributions, to use one measuring device, rose from 1948's $182,000 to $484,000 for the year ended June 30, 1971. And this was accomplished with a declining parish population. We are confident that when our centenary jubilee is upon us, there will still be a St. John's parish with its family spirit blessed with material success and true happiness. (This report is adapted from the response of Joseph B. Mihalov, the auditor of the parish.)

3. ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

References to St. Joseph's College, in Rensselaer, Indiana, recur frequently in these pages. Incorporated in 1889 under the laws of the State of Indiana with the right to grant scholastic degrees, the College's first class of graduates, twelve in number, received diplomas on June 16, 1896.

Conducted by the Society of the Precious Blood, St. Joseph's for a long time was both high school and junior college. In 1936 it began to operate as a senior college, and in June 1938 graduated its first four-year class. At present it is coeducational with an enrollment of over 1300 students.

In 1951 St. Joseph's opened an extension in Lake County, Indiana. Known as "Calumet Center," the extension conducted most of its courses at Bishop Noll high school in Hammond. From the very beginning the relationship between the extension and the parish was very close. For a number of years the Precious Blood Fathers connected with the extension lived at the parish home and assisted — as many still do — in the parochial tasks.

Some of the parishioners spent many hours of manual labor in the remodelling of the first extension office in the Knights of Columbus building in Whiting. (Our records give us the names of *Steve Kurella, John Kaminsky* and *John Kalicky,* and there were others). And when the offices were transferred to Indianapolis Boulevard in East Chicago, in 1956, there was similar cooperation from St. John's parish.

Paranews frequently refers to a more diverse cooperation. It publicized college events and activities. The parish offered its facilities for such events as the opening of school, commencement exercises, dinners, dances, plays, and athletic events. In turn the Fathers from the center cooperated in the parochial activity throughout the years. Mutual cooperation was of great advantage to both. We offer these few notes as a token of that cooperation.

In 1960 the Board of Control authorized the expansion of the center's two-year program into a full four-year degree-granting program. St. Joseph's College Calumet Campus then moved into its new air-conditioned home at 4721 Indianapolis Boulevard, East Chicago. For the next three years classes and administrative work were carried on in this building.

In 1963 the Mary Gorman Specker Memorial Library — due to the generosity of Eugene R. Specker — was established to house the library, additional classrooms, and art and music studios. The library comprises over nine thousand

square feet of floor space, sufficient to seat two hundred students and to accommodate 50,000 books and periodicals. Its special feature is a curriculum laboratory where students in the teacher-training program have access to a large collection of elementary and secondary text books, educational periodicals and other pedagogical materials.

During the 1963-64 school year additional properties between Indianapolis Boulevard and Olcott Avenue were converted to college use: offices for faculty members, parking lots, and a student center. The latter building provides extensive facilities for recreational and social activities as well as office space for the student council and the staff of the student newspaper, *Shavings*.

In the fall of 1965 the college acquired from the city of East Chicago property on the east side of Olcott Avenue which includes a two-story building and a large maintenance garage. The office building has since been converted into a theatre, and the maintenance structure into a classroom building. New biology laboratory facilities were erected in 1969.

The 1967-68 school year left an impact on several aspects of the college development program. A gift of $50,000 from Irving and Kenneth Lewin was earmarked for reducing the mortgage on the Student Union which was appropriately named Lewin Student Center.

Another $10,000 pledge, from the Robert Walsh family, was designated for construction of an auditorium-type lecture hall seating 170 persons. It was opened in 1968.

Most significant, however, was the granting of separate accreditation for the Calumet Campus by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

Though excellence is the educational aim of the college, it would have to confess failure if it did not stress religious exercise and religious experience as essential. The formation of a true moral character in the student is the highest aim in education, says the catalog for 1970-71. "This happy result can be attained only through religion. The student, therefore, should prize the knowledge and love of religion as his richest possession, and he should be eager to do his part in helping to create and to maintain a religious atmosphere in the daily life of the college. To center attention on this important element of student life, classes begin with prayer and a daily noon Mass is offered. All students are encouraged to attend the religious exercises sponsored by the college during the academic year."

In this brief rubric it is impossible to offer details about the faculty, the scholastic offerings and opportunities, though

progress in these areas has been very notable. Unlike its present counterpart, St. Joseph's at Rensselaer, this college has a very limited number of priests. This small number, however, has contributed immeasurably to the spiritual life of the region and of St. John's parish (Parenthetically, we note the names of the college: first it was St. Joseph College Extension, then, St. Joseph College Calumet Campus, then St. Joseph's Calumet College, and soon it will be simply Calumet College. The enrollment is 1600.)

4. DRAMA CLUB — MARIAN GUILD

With sure pastoral instinct for the full meaning of Christian life, both pastors and parishioners have encouraged St. John's theatre movement for over four decades. Though *amateur* in our best American tradition, St. John's dramatic effort was never amateurish. Though the theatre troupes produced profoundly religious plays and pageants, their effort was broad in scope. Above all, they presented theatre which reflects meaning and high purpose, departing radically from both the low entertainment which now floods screen and stage and the theatre of the absurd notion which views man and human existence as hopeless, if not meaningless. St. John's theatre has never been negative in outlook, has never viewed "man as a victim caught up in a world in which . . . there is neither hope nor meaning, nor any object, person or power, to whom he may successfully appeal" (NCE, vol. 14, art. *Theater of the Absurd,* p. 4f).

Rather, St. John's theatre is concerned with purpose and meaning, realizing well that the meaning of all meaning ultimately is Christ, the Word-made-man in whom the divine communicates God-life to man. His very existence blesses all communication arts, for he is their supreme sign.

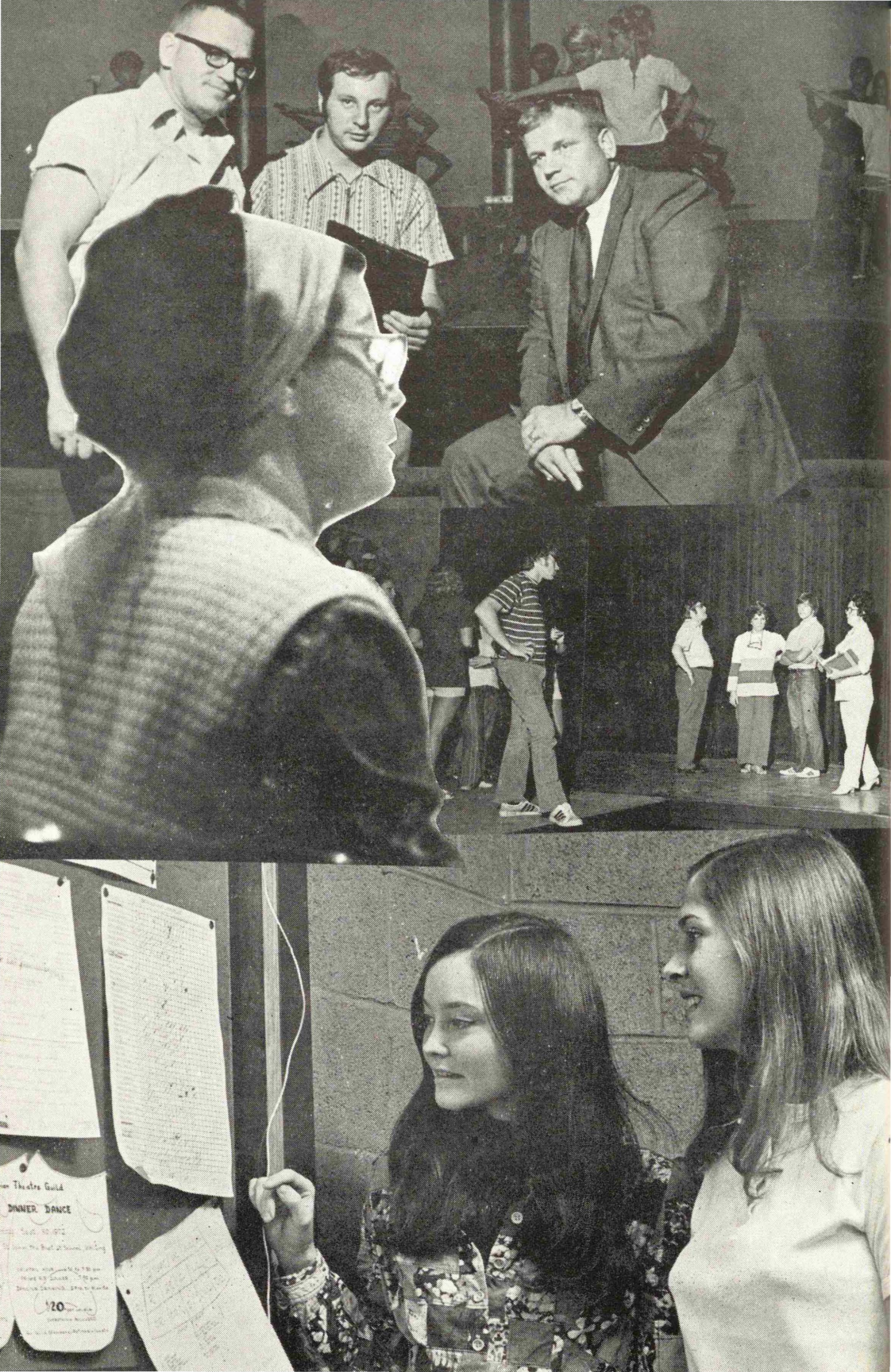
It goes without saying that St. John's theatre has been entertaining and interesting — for it survived and is still alive. The dull perishes of its own weight. The survival of St. John's theatre is reflected in over a hundred plays — from 1928 to 1972.

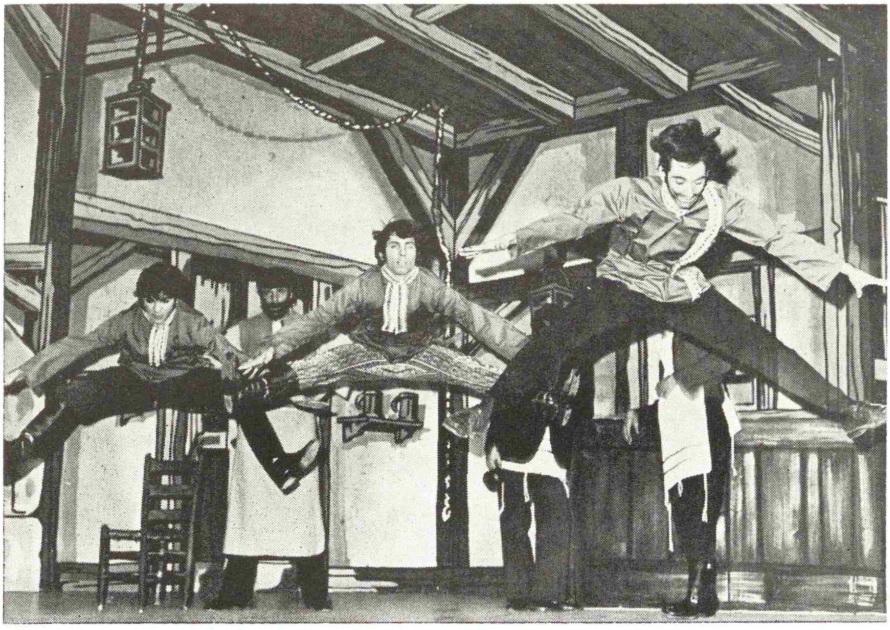
The List

1928: *Now Adolph* . . . 1929: *A Noble Outcast* . . . *Arrival Of Kitty* . . . 1930: *Miss Cherry Blossom* . . . *Fixing It For Father* . . . 1931: *Mummy And The Mumps* . . . 1932: *Upper Room* . . . *Dead Of Night* . . . *Alibi Bill* . . . 1933: *The Healer* . . . 1934: *Marcus* . . . 1935: *Gypsy Troubador* . . . 1936: *Follow Thou Me* . . . 1937: *Conquered* . . . *Beloved Vagabond* . . . 1938: *Night of January 16th* . . . *Upper Room*

. . . *Hearts And Blossoms* . . . 1939: *I Do Not Remember* . . . *Lucky Break* . . . 1940: *Fantasy Of The Passion* . . . *One Mad Night* . . . *Good News* . . . 1941: *Catherine The Valiant* . . . *Loose Ankles* . . . *It's Your Date* . . . 1942: *Cradle Song* . . . *Big Hearted Herbert* . . . 1943: *Lady Of The Rock* . . . 1944: *Sanctity* . . . *Letters To Lucerne* . . . *It's Up To You* . . . 1945: *Ladies In Retirement* . . . *Song Of The Immigrant* . . . *Almost Summer* . . . *Chiara, Eternal Light, Summons Of Gabriel* (three one-act plays) . . . 1946: *Behold The Man* . . . *Good News* . . . 1947: *Career Angel* . . . *Opening Night* . . . 1948: *You Can't Take It With You* . . . *Play For Keeps* . . . *Pirates Of Penzance* . . . 1949: *Jane Eyre* . . . *Much Ado About Nothing* . . . *Shadow And Substance* . . . *Meet Me In St. Louis* . . . 1950: *The Late Christopher Bean* . . . *Song At The Scaffold* . . . *Channel* 13 . . . *Bandmaster* . . . 1951: *Jenny Kissed Me* . . . *The First Legion* . . . *The New Moon* . . . 1952: *Stardust* . . . *The Betrayal* . . . *The Mikado* . . . 1953: *Arsenic And Old Lace* . . . *Passing Of The Third Floor Back* . . . *Song Of Norway* . . . 1954: *Detective Story* . . . *The Great Big Doorstep* . . . *The Royal Family* . . . 1955: *The Righteous Are Bold* . . . *H.M.S. Pinafore* . . . 1956: *My Three Angels* . . . *The Betrayal* . . . *Premiere* . . . 12 *Angry Men* . . . 1957: *Hansel And Gretel* . . . *The Little Foxes* . . . *Pirates of Penzance* . . . 1958: *Light Up The Sky* . . . *The King's Servant* . . . *Oklahoma* . . . *One Act Play Festival* . . . 1959: *The King And I* . . . *St. Joan* . . . *The Desk Set* . . . 1960: *South Pacific* . . . *Harvey* . . . *Song Of Bernadette* . . . *Marian Minstrel of* 1960 . . . *Three One Act Plays*: *Egad What A Cad, The Dear Departed, Cox And Box* . . . 1961: *The Desperate Hours* . . . *Three One Act Plays*: *Phoenix Too Frequent, Riders To The Sea, The Marriage Proposal* . . . *Carousel* . . . 1962: *The Pajama Game* . . . *Stalag* 17 . . . 1963: *Guys And Dolls* . . . *Mr. Roberts* . . . 1964: *Romanoff and Juliet* . . . *Sound Of Music* . . . 1965: *Happy Birthday* . . . *Damn Yankees* . . . 1966: *Mary, Mary* . . . *Lil Abner* . . . *Enter Laughing* . . . 1967: *Oliver* . . . *Rhinoceros* . . . 1968: *Camelot* . . . 1969: *Kiss Me Kate* . . . 1970: *You Can't Take It With You* . . . 1971: *Odd Couple* . . . *Fiddler on the Roof* . . . 1972: *Sweet Charity* . . . *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* . . . *My Fair Lady.*

Our *Fifty Years of Grace* sets the date of the first parish stage effort in the year 1926. This first play in English, according to the *Whiting News* of May 12, 1926, was *Mammy's Lil' Wild Rose,* presented in the Slovak Dom under the auspices of the Holy Name Society. Previously, according to reports, there were children's plays in English in the school and dramatic efforts in Slovak by the grown-ups.


Theatre Guild
DINNER DANCE



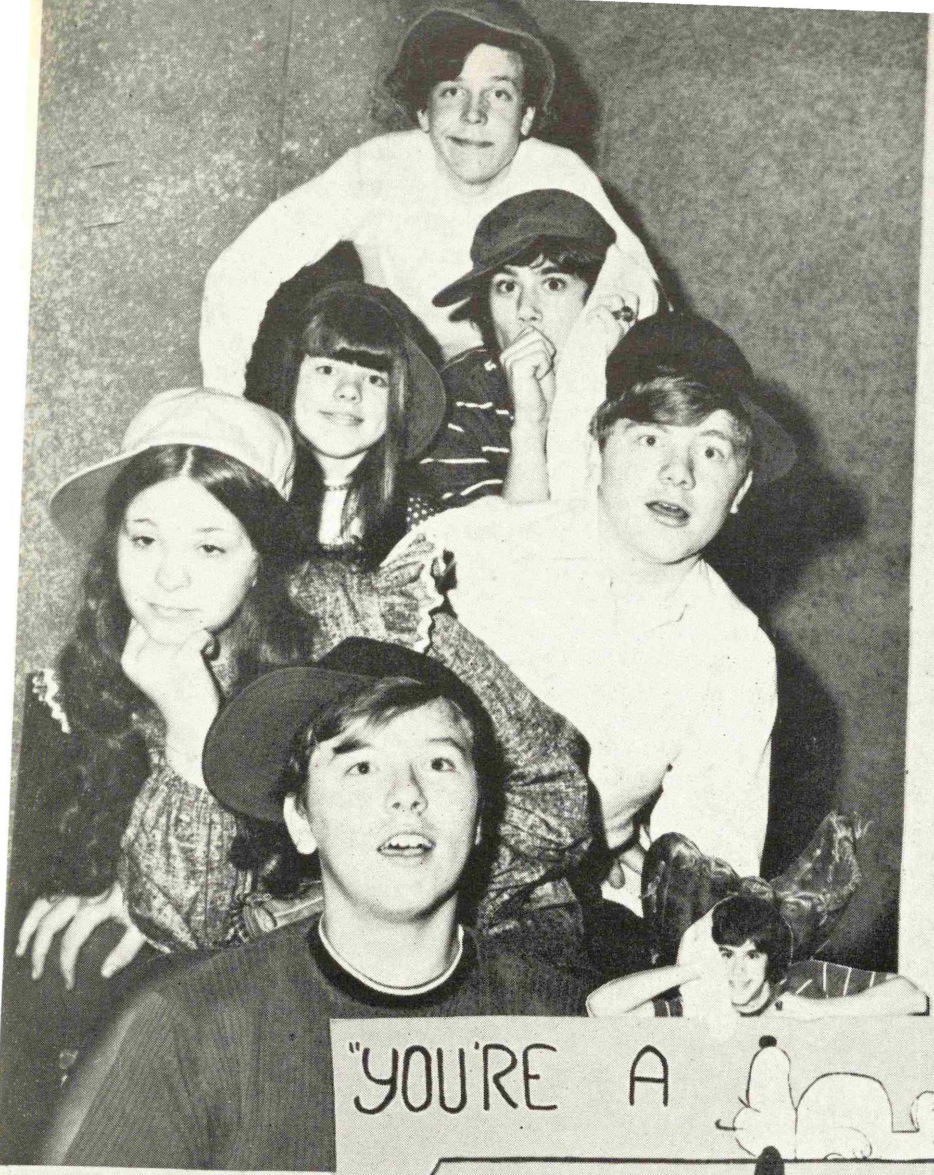
"FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"

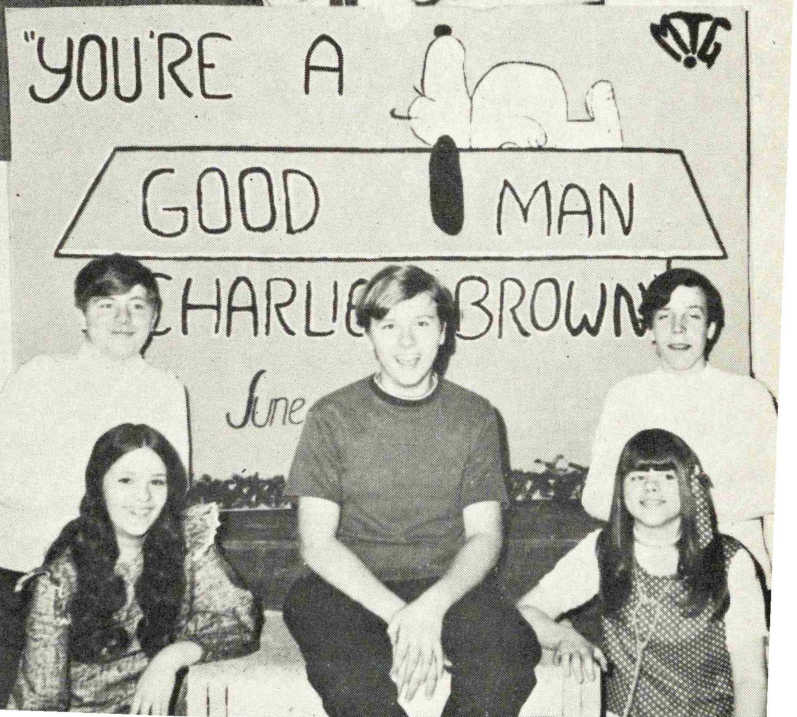




"SWEET CHARITY"






"YOU'RE A
GOOD MAN
CHARLIE BROWN
June

The parish's organizational endeavor followed the *Mammy's Lil' Wild Rose* success, which the critics highly approved. The Drama Club was organized shortly thereafter. And from May 23, 1928, to November 3-4, 1947, there was at least one dramatic presentation every year.

The pressure of space forces us to devote a limited number of pages to activities which really deserve a copious and critical volume. The writer hopes that such a task will be undertaken by one of the privileged group that participated in the unique history of St. John's theatre. Something of this was already attempted in a delightful Who's Who, entitled *Marian Theatre Guild,* 1928-1970. Even a summary of this work would expand our history unduly. We are constrained, therefore, to focus attention on a few of the better known presentations with a final comment taken from our letters of information.

Obviously all this can only faintly convey an idea of the hours of labor spent in study, discussion, rehearsal. The work before the play, the work behind the scenes, the hours of anguished anticipation, and the sense of achievement can be known only to those who actually cooperated in the great task which is St. John's theatre.

The first three presentations which we select as "sampling" were "repeat performances" — *You Can't Take It With You, Pirates of Penzance,* and *The Betrayal.*

You Can't Take It With You was first staged in the Whiting Community Center in 1948, the first year after the golden jubilee. Twenty two years later it was re-presented in the new Marian Memorial Theatre Auditorium. We can only note that there were three roles played by the same actresses who played in the first performance: Ann Anthony, Mary Moldraski (now Mary Morris) and Betty Furiak. They are all stellar figures in our history of theatre. Both times the play was directed by Mary Mores.

The Gilbert and Sullivan operetta *Pirates of Penzance* was also produced originally in the Whiting Community Center in 1948. It was directed by Evelyn Sabol whose name frequently occurs in our *Fifty Years of Grace.* The second showing was in 1957 in the Marian Theatre and directed by Dolores McCampbell.

Quite different was *The Betrayal* presented in 1952 and again in 1956. This poignant passion play was the last presentation by St. John's players in the Community Center, also the last of the passion plays. The new center of dramatic activities was the Marian Theatre and henceforth the club took the name *Marian Theatre Guild.* Both performances were directed by Irene (Gregorovich) George.

In 1954 John Gazda directed *Detective Story,* also in the Whiting Community Center. Our informant notes that this was the first time "we had a professional actor, Mr. John Bettenbender, playing the leading role." The show was also taken "on the road" to St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer) where it was received as enthusiastically as at St. John's.

Elsewhere in our history we feature the *Premiere,* a variety show patterned on the Ed Sullivan TV shows, presented as a part of the official opening of the Marian Theatre in the newly completed Parish Center in 1956. Directed by John Gazda, the show included numbers by the combined choirs of St. Joseph's College (Rensselaer), St. Margaret's School of Nursing (Hammond) and St. John's, under the direction of Father Lawrence Heiman.

The musical comedy, *The King and I,* produced in 1959, was highly professional. It was remarked that the choreography by Violet Milne was "very professional looking." Outstanding were the costumes by Mary Blasko and the scenery by Conrad Blasko. The lead roles were played by George Saliga and Margaret Frechette. Technically, artistically, and "financially" it was a huge success. It was directed by Irene (Gregorovich) George.

In this same year Mary Mores directed *St. Joan.* As the writer studied the Theatre Guild albums (impressive but meager), he was able to confirm the critical judgment of others regarding the majestic beauty of the play, of the lead role played by Mary Lou Wadas, of the sets designed by Conrad Blasko, and of the costumes by Mary Blasko.

There is a tone of exultation in the album's brief notes referring to 1964's "repeat performances" and "sell outs." *Sound of Music,* directed by John Gazda, "for the first time had eight performances with sell-out houses on the final week end." *Oklahoma* had one sell-out performance, but ran only four nights. What seemed to the writer as at least a slight stroke of genius (dramatic or financial?) was the Dinner/Show combination ticket appeal thought up for *Sound of Music.* The result was a remarkable increase of attendance at all the subsequent shows. And one imagines a deep sense of satisfaction for the theatre-goers.

The final presentation of the guild is still too vivid in mind to require comment. *Fiddler on the Roof* proved to be the show which broke all records. Eight performances and four sell-out houses; people were begging for tickets! Fitting conclusion to the many great years of drama, the fruit of intelligence, dramatic talent, hard work, and God's blessing.

By way of footnote we call attention to the theatre work

as offering St. John's youth a common meeting ground for the great personal drama of Christian betrothal and marriage, with all its mingling of comedy and loving passion — and again God's blessing on man's noblest production.

Addenda

In a fine letter Irene (Gregorovich) George answers our inquiry regarding the "co-operation of groups," acceptance of "new ideas," etc., with a few lines on the "children's speech classes and the musicals which were done entirely by the 7th and 8th grades" during the early sixties. She mentions: *Cinderella's Slipper, The White Gypsy* and *The Cobbler*. "The children did the shows but were helped by members of the Marian Theatre Guild in the technical work."

We cite the incident as another "sample" of the cultural values encouraged in St. John's school by the Theatre Guild. The program drawings have a haunting beauty — this feature is a constant element in the guild work — that seems endlessly creative. The three plays were directed by Irene, assisted by Ronald Small, Joseph Snarich, Rosemarie Scozzaro and Jenny Justak.

Another letter from a man long active in the parish — Mr. Walter Kekich — answers our inquiry regarding the "work of parish members," and "the most memorable events or persons in the parish history," with a most generous appraisal of James LaPert.

Mr. Kekich speaks of LaPert's "tremendous loyalty," his "great sacrifices for the church," and his contribution to "its growth." In the years 1937 and 1938 he was a great "moving force in the maintenance of the drama club . . . was the director of every production for many years." The writer refers to the "painting of the scenes . . . he was noted for the great religious and passion plays presented at the Whiting Community Center." Many individuals profited by his direction and "I was one of those who were fortunate to have him as a director in several plays."

We have already referred to LaPert's artistry in the Christmas and Easter decorations. "Many of the statues were repaired and repainted by him individually. At Easter time he would build a platform for the resurrection of Christ. He even built an elevator which would operate mechanically and bring Christ from the tomb to the surface . . . the lighting effects made the ceremony very realistic. He also assisted in arranging for processions for all occasions in Church." (Walter Kekich)

5. SPORTS AT ST. JOHN'S

Sports as a form of recreation and physical culture are found everywhere in human history, often as an essential part of a nation's life. Organized and competitive games and contests occupied a very significant place in the culture of ancient Greece, to cite but one example. Certain forms of sport have been brutal and degrading, others highly cultural and elevating. Something of both seems inherent in man's nature. Probably our own country has gone beyond all others in making of competitive sports a major enterprise in our commercial and economic life. But always sports relate to the business of living, as an ancient Chinese writer, Lu Yu, once philosophized:

> A round ball and a square wall,
> The ball flying across like the moon,
> While the teams stand opposed
> Captains are appointed and take their places.
> No allowances are made for relationship;
> According to unchanging regulations
> There must be no partiality.
> But there must be determination and coolness
> Without the slightest irritation at failings
> And if all this is necessary for football
> How much more for the business of life.
>
> (NCE, article *Sports,* vol. 13, p. 617)

The encouragement of sports at St. John's by the pastors is in accord with a pastoral tradition which looks upon sports as closely related to the well-balanced Christian life. Theologians use an ancient Greek term, *eutrapelia,* to express the moderation which marks this well-balanced Christian life.

> Constant work and application cause weariness of mind and body, and the normal cure for this is play. However, this need for relaxation should be in accord with the demands of right reason, which require that recreation involve nothing morally evil, that the participant should not lose self-control altogether, and that the norms of prudence be followed, as regards time, circumstances, and social relationship. Defect in the matter of *eutrapelia* would consist in taking too little recreation, which leads to austere moroseness, or in being boorish in one's social relationships. Excess in recreation would occur if one were to become too fascinated by the delight that accompanies play and thus neglect the serious matters of life . . . Offenses against this

virtue . . . at most would consist in a hindrance to good social life. Too little play can be worse than too much. (NCE, article *Eutrapelia,* vol. 5, p. 642)

The Early Years

We can trace the history of sports at St. John's back to Father Benedict's days. But what we might call the present sport activities date back to 1930, when St. John's Athletic Club was organized. Our *Fifty Years of Grace* says that the Junior Holy Name team of St. John's did well in summer baseball, but that hopes for football success were not realized. In the fall of 1930 there was bowling and volleyball. From then on there was much activity in almost every sport. The first names among the pastorate were those of Father Ernst and Father Stadtherr.

The going was not easy despite some proud victories, and suits "cost a pile of dough." One of our early documents fairly burns with "righteous indignation" over the indifference toward attendance at meetings, the keeping of the scores at games, etc.

> Personally I cannot see why in a parish which boasts of several thousand souls (lots of young men) the same person who says Mass, hears confessions, preaches and instructs the servers, receives calls at the rectory . . . day . . . and night, is expected to be present at all meetings and bunco parties, clean rooms and scrub floors, etc. and is also expected to keep score, guard athletic equipment, summon the players personally, and do a hundred other things. (*Fifty Years of Grace,* p. 125)

In 1932 softball and soccer leagues were organized. In the fall of 1933 the gym was completely remodeled, symbol of success especially in basketball: St. John's team became the "undisputed champions of the city of Whiting." The next year the Holy Name Society had six teams with such mighty names as Cyclones, Rough Riders, Tornadoes, Hurricanes, Flashes, and Ramblers. In 1935 we have the CYO Basketball League, the Whiting Church League, the Boxing and Wrestling Show sponsored by St. John's Athletic Association, the presence of the girls in basketball and the admission of the Daughters of Mary into the association ("with some restrictions"). In rapid succession followed the skating race, the school tournament with six hundred parishioners attending, the pingpong tournament, and boxing and wrestling shows, and roller skating parties.

The sports story is one of great expansion and huge suc-

cess until the war years which marked a decline, except for the youngsters in grade school who marched from triumph to triumph and trophy to trophy.

After the war years there was reorganization and new success. In 1946-47 there were two basketball teams, one of high school students, one of returned veterans. Each played about twenty games. Though the following years never quite captured the old-time spirit and glamor, there was wide participation and much volunteer effort to which we shall refer very briefly.

After the Golden Jubilee

Our sources are the *Paranews* throughout these years. The following pages reflect the detailed reference, as well as the interest of the writer who tells the story. The chronicle for 1948 is rather scanty, but three sports are indicated. According to *Paranews,* March 7, 1948, the second annual parish basketball tourney begins Tuesday March 9 . . . The first home game in baseball is in Whiting Park on June 13; St. John's "takes on" the Chicago Cobras. (*Paranews,* June 13, 1948) . . . St. John's football team had a very successful season. There was also a post season game in Walkerton in the Finger Bowl Match on November 7 (*Paranews,* November 7, 1948). In these years the athletic banquet is one of the big events. Here we note the H.S.A. hosted the athletic luncheon (a huge success) for grade school athletes on Monday, May 3.

The reports for 1949 clearly indicate the pastoral effort to promote sports and recreational activities and invite participation. Those interested in forming a baseball club are invited to attend a special meeting on March 15 (*Paranews,* March 13). At the athletic banquet for the grade school athletic league, held in the Slovak Dom, sport celebrities were present: from the Chicago Bears, Ed Sprinkle, from the Buccaneers, George Glamack and Bob McDermott. (*Paranews,* April 3, 1949) . . . *Paranews,* April 24 has this homey touch: "Baseball practice today, at 2:30, in Clark Field. Bring peanuts and crackerjack and some friends, to bat out a few to Lake George." And in the issue for May 29: Last Wednesday, May 25, St. John's won a no-hit, shut-out baseball game. George Tomko pitched seven innings of "beautiful ball." Finish dinner dishes early next Tuesday, May 31, and "buzz out to Turner Field and see the team."

On June 23, St. John's played Legion Post 232, on June 26 the East Chicago Sportsmen, on June 27 the Home Equipment team, and on July 10 the Dyer Merchants. At the end

of summer there is the organization of a bowling team by the Holy Name Society, under Charles Segal (*Paranews,* September 11) and a serious return to football and basketball. The football season opens on September 18 with St. John's grade school team meeting St. Casimir's of Hammond at Noll Central Field. The next day there is a meeting in Benedict Hall looking to the organization of a men's basketball team. On October 17 and October 24 there is practice for basketball in the Community Center. Our reporter says: Basketball starts for the season on October 12 at the Armory.

There are two very special items for 1950: *Paranews,* September 3 announces there is to be a bowling league under the direction of the Holy Name Society. The attraction is "new shirts" and "trophies." There is the unmistakable pastoral note in the *Paranews for* November 26, 1950: the parish project is the building of a new gym, it is to be "an investment in souls," an "investment for God."

In 1951, Bill Barrett, famous halfback of Notre Dame, is the speaker at the fourth annual banquet for the grade school athletes on April 11. And Bishop Pursley is the featured speaker at the athletic banquet for the NCCW team, on June 14. It was a good year for St. John's Little Baseball League and for the grade school football team, "which won its first CYO championship by decisively trouncing St. Marys of East Chicago on a muddy Clark Field Thanksgiving morning 19-7." (*Paranews,* November 25, 1951) — A good year all around!

1952 was a very active sports year. We shall refer only to what is new or special. At the annual H.S.A. athletic banquet, March 27, Stu Holcomb, head football coach of Purdue University, was the main speaker. *Paranews,* April 20, announces that roller skating is soon to begin in "our gym." *Paranews,* September 7, announces that "our school football team is to defend its CYO title this afternoon." The bowling league developes significantly as bowling becomes an integral part of St. John's social and recreational life. Thus *Paranews,* November 2, gives the bowling league standings, and *Paranews,* November 16, refers to the "Delta Mu Bowling at the Community Center" on that Sunday. With pastoral expansiveness the *Paranews* writer invites parishioners to the sports events and to the Lenten exercises, integrating the spiritual life with recreational activity. (Cf. *Paranews,* March 2, 1952) The year ends with the exultant announcement that our Big Five won seven straight. Only one loss out of eleven for our Big Five. 1952 — a good year.

1953 opens with *Paranews* waving a banner:

> We've been announcing basketball games scheduled in our Gym on Sundays. They have been most interesting games. St. John's big team has an enviable record and is considered one of the best in the region . . . tonight the boys take on Knoerzer Rockets at 8:00, with a preliminary game at 7:00 P.M. Next Sunday an excellent double header has been lined up with Standard Oil taking on Baltimore Lumber (one of the crack teams of the South Side) while our boys will tangle with Glenview Air Base (an outstanding team in the middle west) . . . as we've said before, some of the best basketball that can be seen in the area, is at St. John's on Sunday nights . . . Make it a habit to come. (*Paranews,* January 4, 1953)

St. John's teams were particularly strong in 1953's basketball season. *Paranews* on January 18 announces that the Big Five won the title in the Community Center League, and on March 15 tells us that the 8th grade team won the Calumet Grade School Tournament sponsored by the Whiting Community Center. They are the double area champs playing their last season basketball game versus the CYO in Noll Gym, according to *Paranews,* March 29. The grade school also has a football team with a fighting record. But perhaps the most exciting thing in this year of 1953 is roller skating. Now St. John's gym becomes a real center of this social sport. Note the enthusiasm in *Paranews,* April 5:

> The gym is now ready for Roller Skating . . . Wednesday (April 8) is opening day. The schedule is as follows: On Wednesdays, adults and high school people; Fridays, for high school people and seventh and eighth graders, Saturday afternoons (from 1:00 to 3:30 P.M.) for younger children. On Wednesdays and Fridays, skating will start at 8:00 P.M. and close at 10:30 P.M. (Parents please note closing time).

What might be called a "clerical involvement" is noted in *Paranews,* January 3, 1954: "Basketball, Sunday January 3: the priests of South Bend and Gary versus the priests of Calumet Region." Further details withheld!

Reports on basketball repeatedly refer to the "Big Five," the Seventh Grade, St. John's All Stars, and St. John's CYO.

Bowling seems to be "big time." *Paranews,* January 24, gives the team standings "at season's half-way point," under the rubric of *St. John the Baptist Church Bowling League.* The team names are like a commercial Who's Who: Knapp

Dinners, Baran's Chapel, Richard's Pharmacy, Jednota-130, Palenik Jewelers, Mike Kampo's Appliances, Casual Lounge, Ciesco's Insurance, Parkway Service Station, Roy Osborne Builders, Diamond Tap, Condes Bros. Sandrick Hardware, Chilla's Insurance, Sportman's Dugout.

Trophy for Keeps

According to *Paranews,* April 4, 1954, the H.S.A.-sponsored banquet for the grade school athletes was unique:

> The children have done well this year, and the eighth grade team brought to our school a distinct honor. They captured the Bishop Noll high school basketball trophy "for keeps." It is to be won three years straight before a school can claim it permanently. It is now the property of St. John's School — an honor never received by any other school.

By comparison with 1954, our reports for 1955 and 1956 are rather meager. "Our CYO grade school basketball team won the deanery championship and now proceeds to Ft. Wayne to compete for the diocesan title on March 26." says *Paranews,* March 20, 1955. In fall we note that St. John's CYO grade school football team is at the top of the league. (*Paranews,* October 23)

The year 1956 is marked by the blessing of the new gymnasium in the Parish Center. Something of the old enthusiasm for St. John's sports is evident in *Paranews* for November 25, which refers to two *thriller games* in which St. John's Big Team engages East Chicago's Jockey Club and the St. John's eighth grade team opposes St. Adalbert's. "We anticipate a packed house."

The new spirit is evident in this final 1956 reference to sports:

> The basketball season is in full swing . . . Our children are budding athletes. They have the needed facilities for good healthy body training and development. As athletes they love to show their parents and their big brothers and sisters how well they can play. Come out to watch them. Make it a Sunday date. CYO games Sunday afternoon. Our team plays at 3:30 P.M.
>
> Attention. An interesting basketball game at 7:30 this evening. St. John's Men's Team will meet the Chicago Indians (Full Blooded Indians). Between halves these Indians will present a half time show for our entertainment. At 6:15 P.M. St. John's 5th graders will play the

5th graders of Immaculate Conception (Whiting). (*Paranews,* December 9, 1956.)

We note from *Paranews* only a few sports events for 1957: St. John's Big Five engage the Industrial Vendors on February 17, to which our 5th grade plays the preliminary . . . St. John's Bowling League starts its program on September 5 . . . St. John's CYO football team opens the season against St. Joseph's of Hammond at Noll Field on September 15 . . . *Paranews,* November 24, has this note: A volleyball session was shared by many of our parishioners last week. All who are interested are invited to our gym this Monday at 8:00 P.M. . . . Intramural basketball for our grade school boys is scheduled for Saturday mornings at 9:30. "The fathers of the boys are invited to give a hand." . . . And in 1958 we notice a greater interest in volleyball on the part of the women of the parish (*Paranews,* February 17 and 24) . . . Father Schiml and Joe Vrabel are cited for their efforts at publicizing St. John's sports . . . And *Paranews,* March 23 calls attention to eight teams of Delta Mu in the basketball tournament beginning March 23.

Though space limitations restrict our account of the major sports of St. John's in these years, it is clear that the diet was steady and substantial. Note, for instance, the gym schedule in *Paranews,* January 18, 1959: This afternoon in our gym starting at 2:30 our 5th, 6th, and 7th grades will play St. Casimir's. On Friday evening at 6:30 the same grades will play St. Thomas More in Munster . . . This evening in our gym, the Knights of the Precious Blood will play a local team at 7:00. This afternoon our 8th grade will face Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Noll Gym at 2:30. On Saturday, January 24, the 7th grade will play St. Stanislaus at Noll Gym at 11:00.

The same issue of *Paranews* schedules volleyball for men on Tuesday night at 7:30. It will be a busy year. *Paranews,* March 1, announces the Second Annual Open Basketball Tournament for March 6. *Paranews,* August 16, the opening of the bowling season for September 10, *Paranews,* October 11, that St. John's football team will play St. Mark's in Gilroy Stadium in Gary, *Paranews,* December 20 presents a heavy basketball schedue for that Sunday. These are only samples of a very active sports program that fills the entire year. We shall limit our comment on sports in 1960 to two *Paranews* references. The issue of January 31 reminds the Daughters of Mary "who will do some bowling this afternoon at 2:00 at the Towne House of their first Saturday Communion Mass at 8:00 A.M." Here we have a

clear instance of the "integration of pastoral concern." More extensive is the reference to the athletic program in the issue of July 10, 1960.

> The energies of youth at St. John's are guided through the medium of wholesome sports into right channels. Even from the days of Fr. Benedict's grade school baseball teams, the organization of St. John's Athletic Club in 1930, the "old church" gym, the quonset gym, up to the gymnasium of today, the youth of St. John have set the scene of many an excitable win or loss. Memories of the wins are retained in the trophy cases.
>
> During the past year the following activities took place in our gym:
>
> Basketball being the main attraction, Grades 5th to 8th had teams while the Knights of the Precious Blood, the CYO, and the High School League composed of 13 teams from surrounding parishes played two nights weekly. On Saturday mornings there was intramural basketball for all the boys from 4th to 8th grade that were not on the regular teams. Also there was a men's basketball team representing St. John playing at the Community Center.
>
> Not only do the 5th to 8th grade girls have volleyball teams, but also the men and women of the parish have a night every week for volleyball.
>
> During the fall there is the grade school football team with boys from the 6th to 8th grade and in the spring there is track for the 7th and 8th grade boys.
>
> Many enjoyable evenings have been spent by the Holy Name men bowling.
>
> To make the athletic program a success requires the unselfish help of zealous priests, parents, high school snack shop boys, and many men and women in the coaching, refereeing and supervisory capacity — all working without pay, looking only to the satisfaction of helping towards greater parish unity and better guidance of our youth.

A Few Items: 1961 - 1965

From these years we select only a few items from extensive sports reports in *Paranews*. The Delta Mu bowling tournament was held at Towne House Lanes according to *Paranews,* January 29, 1961 . . . Deanery championship was won by St. John's grade school football team, seven wins to one loss. (*Paranews,* November 5, 1961) . . . On March 18

1962 the 8th graders basketball team was pitted against a formidable opponent, a team composed of priests and coaches. This latter group, under the sharp eye of their coach, Fr. Homco, has planned some fine maneuvers . . . Several men of the parish are interested in playing 16" softball during the summer months, one game per week. (*Paranews,* May 13, 1962) . . . Our bowling league has completed its sixth week of competition with the powerful Parkway Shell team in the first place . . . one of the features is the graceful sweeping curve ball thrown by Father Danielak. (*Paranews,* October 21, 1962)

From *Paranews,* January 6, 1963: Our intramural basketball program (22 teams) is in full swing. Games are played each Sunday . . . The 8th grade CYO basketball team won the championship in their league and were also first in the Community Center league. (*Paranews,* February 3, 1963 . . . The St. John School football team wound up its season last Sunday with a victory over St. Casimir's and an undefeated season. They are undisputed champs of the CYO in our area. Congratulations to coach Bob Valencik, his staff and boys. (*Paranews,* November 3, 1963) . . . From *Paranews,* April 5, 1964: Juniors and Juniorettes are sponsoring a family roller skating party on April 13, 1964. The profits from this venture will buy supplies for the girls' club room . . . Later we learn that the party was a success. Fr. Danielak must have injected a note of humor, for the record says: "He stayed on his feet most of the time."

From *Paranews,* April 19, 1964: Last week the swimming team took second place honors. Very capable help was furnished by Mrs. Ed Kaminsky and Mr. Frank Shimala . . . At present Coach Bob Valencik is getting our school track team into fine condition . . . From *Paranews,* February 14, 1965: Our "Old Timers" basketball game is scheduled for Feb. 28. Awards will be presented to the first place teams of our intramural leagues. ("Old Timers" seems to refer to the priests and the coaches who engage the 8th graders.) . . . This afternoon the 7th grade Invitational Tournament at St. John's Gym. Finals will be next Saturday.

There are many references in *Paranews* to sports events of interest to parishioners. We note one of these as particularly attractive in the issue of November 28, 1965:

> The Czechoslovakian State Folklore Dancers from Prague will be performing at the Washington High School Gym, Indiana Harbor, December 7th at 8:00 P.M. You are invited to attend. This spectacular will

take place between halves of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball game.

The records of the final years of our twenty-five are much like the years of the earlier sixties. We have the same variety of sports with wide participation. For this reason we single out only an occasional item in these concluding lines . . .*Paranews,* April 16, 1967, tells us that the top spots in the Hammond Volleyball League were won by St. John's girls teams. The Gold Team placed first and the Blue Team came in second . . . *Paranews,* April 23, 1967: In the recent swim meet at Whiting Community Center three of St. John's School students set records in the 20 yard event, Daniel Vida of the 4th grade with a 12.2 second and in the 5th grade Rita Shimala and Harry Dolinski with 11.9 second each . . . Our final note — from *Paranews,* May 17, 1970: The following qualified for the diocesan track meet to be held this afternoon at Noll Field: Larry Cuculic, 440 yard dash; Robert Gabor, Michael Banik, Tom Wohrle, and Christopher Bobos for 880 yard relay. In the girls division: Barbara Mottet, 60 yard dash; and Rita Shimala, 100 yard dash and standing long jump.

Final Report for 1971

Paranews for this final year before the celebration of the diamond jubilee seems to have added a special stress on wide participation in sports. The issue of January 3, gives us the St. John Bowling League standings for midway in the season, as of December 21, 1970. There are twelve teams. *Paranews,* February 28, announces that the eighth grade girls volleyball team won the Hammond District CYO tournament this past week end. Their coaches are Mrs. Frank Razumich and Mrs. Edward Gesik . . . The seventh grade girls also won a tournament with Miss Pat Puplava as their coach . . . The eighth grade girls go on to the Gary diocesan tournament finals on Saturday, March 27 . . . *Paranews,* April 4, announces that St. John's girls won a trophy in volleyball, winning two straight games in each set in the tournament with victories over St. Francis of Gary, Our Lady of Grace, and St. Stanislaus. CONGRATULATIONS! . . . From *Paranews,* May 2: Among the four schools competing in the Whiting-Robertsdale Swim Meet, St. John's earned second place, just two points below Whiting's 74.

We have already referred to the usual sports in these pages (football, basketball, baseball), but the following is especially newsworthy:

Playground Takes On New Look

Those happy painters on the playground last Wednesday were officers of the Home and School Association, laying out games of hopscotch and four square games. Plans are being made for other games to be installed as soon as the other area receives a new coating of asphalt next week. Assisting their HSA president, Rudy Wunder, were: Steve Timko (1st VP), Jerry Strbjak (2nd VP), Don Gray (Auditor), Tom Puplava (Advisor) and the co-chairmen of publicity, Sandi Gray and Lorraine Wunder. (*Paranews,* August 15)

A Synoptic Comment: Personalities

After the writer pursued the sources of sports at St. John's, he resorted to the review and interview method of surveying what he had written, having in mind especially the personalities involved. The trophies themselves in the school are a bright comment of their own; to which we add the intimate recollections of one of the Fathers whose zeal and memory provided this somewhat furbished Who's Who:

Football in the recent decades: Fathers Hajduch and Edward Homco should be listed as coaches and "directors of action." To these we add Stephen "Boots" Mihalso, Bob Valencik, and Ed Filas, who also coached basketball. Bob Valencik stands high in the hall of fame: three undefeated football teams, 1963, 1964, 1965. And one year the opposition failed to score altogether.

Basketball attracted many coaches. Longest in service, still active, and now in his fifteenth year of coaching the fifth grade team is Daniel "Bud" Ruf . . . Jim Bobos has helped for twelve years with the Knights of the Precious Blood and the seventh grade teams. Stan Shimala had eighth grade teams under his wing for nearly nine years. He is rightfully proud of the 1960-1961 team which won 46 games undefeated in a season when teams from Chicago and Gary area were among the challengers. Among others we must mention the following: Joe Gulvas, John Palenik, Frank Jajchik, John Bobby, John Badnarik, Fred Kraly, Tony Matlon, with a record of five years or more with the boys "on the hardwood."

Both coaches and referees volunteered for duty — calling the fouls and enforcing the rules of the game — many Saturday and Sunday afternoons. We recall for special mention: George Vrbancic, Al Tkach, George Bobos, and George

Kauchak. They were here "for more than a couple of seasons."

The more interesting the scenes, the less concerned are we about those who work behind the scenes, and make the operation successful. Henry Yadron spent many hours at the scoreboard for the girls volleyball and basketball games. Andy Simko had charge of the concessions and gate receipts for eight years, while busy at maintaining, changing, and improving the gym area. We ordinarily pay little heed to the men or women who clean up "afterward." Such faithful and patient service was rendered by John Staucet who continued these tasks until he reached the age of eighty. (Note: only three or four boys from the 1960-1961 8th grade basketball team failed to complete college and earn a degree.)

Volleyball became a major sport at St. John's and attracted many girls and women in the 1950s. In 1956 Miss Ann Anthony coached and directed the intra-mural volleyball for girls from the fifth to the eighth grade during after-school hours and on Saturdays. Interest on the part of other schools in the area led to inter-parish contests at St. John's. This marked the C.Y.O. girls volleyball activity in the Hammond area. Miss Anthony promoted and coached girls volleyball for six years. Later in the years 1965 to 1970 Mrs. Frank Shimala coached the 7th and 8th grade girls while caring for the school gym program and the Saturday C.Y.O. leagues.

The *Knights of The Precious Blood* entered the basketball scene in the winter of 1956-57 under the coaching of Jim Bobos who continued in this capacity for five years. At first there were pick-up games with other teams, but the following two years a high school league, C.Y.O. came into existence. Don Kaminsky assisted in this promotion, only to see the league come to an untimely death within two years. The Knights survived until 1962. In the fall of 1971, however, the C.Y.O. has a St. John's high school team again. (This comment has been adapted from the account of Father Wohlwend and Father Schiml.)



PART FOUR

1972

THE YEAR OF JUBILEE

"Sound The Trumpet"

At all times men have commemorated significant events of the past. Families mark the days of birth and death with recurring memory in joy and sorrow. Among nations annual celebration of freedom or victory over oppression is most significant. The Jews celebrated their Passover annually in memory of their deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Similarly, the early Christians celebrated the Pasch every year, as their feast of redemption from sin. The Sabbath, as recurring day of rest, is even reflected in the sabbatical year, the seventh year of rest; also, in the jubilee year, according to the book of Leviticus: (25:8ff)

> Seven weeks of years shall you count — seven times seven years — so that the seven cycles amount to forty-nine years. Then, on the tenth day of the seventh month let the trumpet resound; on this, the Day of Atonement, the trumpet blast shall re-echo throughout your land. This fiftieth year you shall make sacred by proclaiming liberty in the land for all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when every one of you shall return to his own property, every one to his own family estate.

In the Jubilee Year a cessation of all farm labor, restoration of alienated property, and liberation of all Hebrew slaves was prescribed. This, at least, was the ideal. As to the term *jubilee,* it may have been derived from the *Yobel,* trumpet, which sounded to announce the event.

From this biblical concept the Church took her Jubilee Year, or Holy Year, a year of special celebration of the redemption through Christ. In the Middle Ages the Roman Pontiffs decreed Holy Years — pilgrims flocked to Rome to gain spiritual privileges, plenary indulgences, and progress in holiness. St. Peter's in Rome had its Holy Door, opened for the Jubilee Year and then sealed again. The latest Jubilee Year was 1950. In 1965, however, Pope Paul VI proclaimed an extraordinary Jubilee to be celebrated in all dioceses of the world — in the cathedral and around the bishop — from January 1 to May 29 (Pentecost), 1966. (*Mirificus Eventus,* December 7, 1965)

Though our Jubilee Year is chosen by the parish itself in accordance with our own customs, it still reflects the spirit of the Church's Holy Year. For us the jubilee means remembrance of the founding of our parish, the spiritual and material cooperation of all who have gone before us and left us a legacy of faith and love. It is remembrance of the living people of God, who mindful of the graces of the past

and the opportunities of the present, strain forward to the lofty hopes of the future. In the most real sense, then, the Jubilee Year is eschatalogical, for it yearns for the "second coming of Christ" — for each of us individually whenever He calls and for the whole of the Church. We are always conscious that the Lord is nigh, as we pray for Him to come. In the early Church a beautiful prayer reflected both these thoughts: — Lord, come (*Marana tha*) and the Lord is coming (*Maran atha*).

Our Marriage Jubilees: A Theological Comment

Christian marriage is a noble and basic love union between man and woman, which in Christ's plan is a sacrament. Such is the teaching of the Church. Christian marriage rests on the will of Christ and His grace, by which a loving human union of two persons relates to God and the divine plan for the social order as its basis and goal. It is a fellowship of Christians in Christ, which means that Christ is present actively in every Christian marriage and with Him the Church. "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst," Christ said. (Mt 18:20) If this is true of any fellowship in Christ, it surely holds good for this tiniest and most closely knit fellowship, Christian marriage. One of the Church Fathers calls marriage a Church in miniature. As such, it is grace-endowed, grace-giving.

This is clear from the fact that bride and groom confer the sacrament on each other. The very nature of marriage as a sacrament suggests that it be life-long and exclusive. It is a doctrine resting on our faith that the sacramental consummated union can be dissolved only by death. The grace of marriage is enrichment of the supernatural life of the soul, which we call sanctifying grace, an enrichment that bears with it constant support of the couple in all trials until death.

The married couple in a special way reflects the sacred mystery of Christ and the Church (Eph 5: 22ff). Their marriage is a symbol, a concrete token, of the divine covenant between God and man which is final and perfect in Christ, and by which God's own divine life is communicated to mankind. This granting of divine life to them is concretely situated and betokened in Christian marriage. And what is the physical source of human life in its beginnings becomes in and through Christ also the font of spiritual life, which the spouses most aptly nourish in their children. The

child of a mother's womb is reborn in baptism as child of God and the Church. Every sociological and juridical aspect of marriage must ultimately rest in this concept of marriage in Christ. Marriage and family relate to home and hearth as the first source of education and vocation to life.

We have said much in these pages about the parish jubilee, about the jubilee of our priests and sisters. Only too little about the golden and silver jubilees of Christian marriage. Here we enter the list of jubilees with the wish and prayer that this "great sacrament" be a constant source of grace to those united in this loving bond and to our whole parish. (Pressure of space restricts the list to the Jubilee Year 1972).

May Their Jubilee Year Be Symbol of Eternal Jubilee.

LIST OF MARRIED COUPLES
CELEBRATING 25TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY IN
JUBILEE YEAR — 1972

January 11, 1947	Michael and Jeweldeen Janek
January 25, 1947	Andrew and Mabel Mary Jansky
January 27, 1947	Harry and Katherine Dolinski
February 6, 1947	Clifford and Margaret Pearson
February 8, 1947	Andrew and Edith Pavnica
February 10, 1947	Michael and Mary Kaminsky
February 15, 1947	Bernard and Berta Chiluski
March 28, 1947	Florian and Evelyn Prusinski
April 7, 1947	Hubert and Mildred O'Donnell
April 8, 1947	Bernard and Claire Ballon
April 12, 1947	John and Ann Marie Forte
April 12, 1947	Stanley and Ann Zieminski
April 19, 1947	Peter and Betty Keckich
April 19, 1947	Edward and Margaret Matuska
April 19, 1947	Andrew J. and Irene Hryn
May 3, 1947	Richard and Irene Knott
May 3, 1947	Charles and Veronica Palenik
May 17, 1947	Stephen A. and Olga Papesh
May 17, 1947	Merle and Ella Irene Shepperd
May 17, 1947	Walter and Helen Michalowski
May 17, 1947	Joseph and Rosemary Shreve
June 1, 1947	Raymond and Helen Hmurovich
June 7, 1947	Philip and Ann Buck
June 7, 1947	Michael and Mae Rapchak
June 14, 1947	John and Marie Dubec
June 14, 1947	Andrew and Margaret Pasztor
June 18, 1947	Martin and Margaret Gabor
June 21, 1947	Virgil and Lillian Meier
June 21, 1947	Eulogio and Helen Cuculich

June 26, 1947	Michael and Roma Mrzlock
June 28, 1947	Joseph and Eleanore Hetzel
July 18, 1947	Norman and Freda Fey
July 20, 1947	Charles and Virginia Jamerson
July 26, 1947	Michael and Katherine Novotney
August 2, 1947	Michael and Ludmilla Adam
August 7, 1947	Henry and Catherine Sachar
August 27, 1947	Edward and Loretta Spaulding
September 1, 1947	Joseph and Julia Paunicka
September 6, 1947	Joseph and Dolores Peters
September 6, 1947	Frank and Martha Shimala
September 6, 1947	Stanley and Joan Palka
September 6, 1947	John and Gertrude Hunera
September 9, 1947	Troy and Hattie Mohon
September 13, 1947	Salvator and Irene Mangia
September 13, 1947	Francis and Rosemary Dorsey
September 27, 1947	Charles and Bernice Poi
September 27, 1947	Bertil and Ann Karlsten
October 4, 1947	Roy and Mary Ruth Balog
October 11, 1947	Edward and Bertha Riccio
October 11, 1947	Charles and Josephine Cuca
October 11, 1947	Joseph and Alice Cech
October 18, 1947	John and Clara Burr
October 18, 1947	Fred and Ruth Kraly
October 25, 1947	Stanley and Rose Zajac
October 25, 1947	Edward and Agnes Igras
November 22, 1947	Michael and Helena Darby
November 22, 1947	Henry and Katherine Winiecki
November 27, 1947	James and Helen Capps
December 4, 1947	Milton and Jeaneane Skorupa
December 27, 1947	John and Marjorie Paylo
December 27, 1947	Dell and Mary Bellile

Preparation For Year of Jubilee

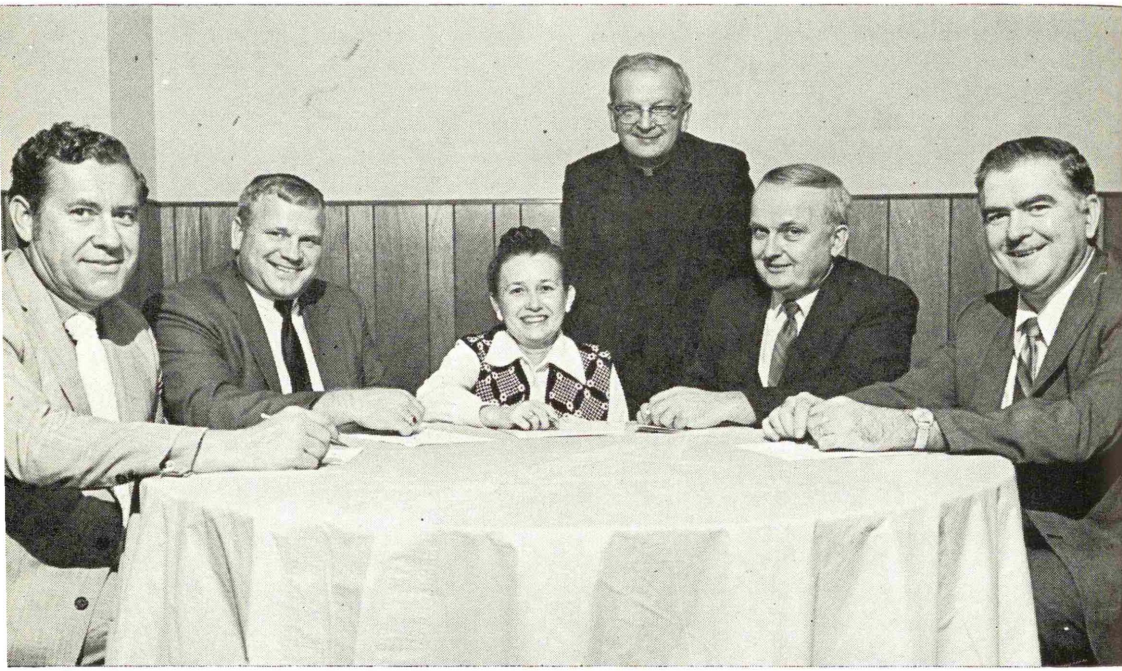
Pastor and parish looked forward to a year of Jubilee. 1972 in all its events was to recall and celebrate God's blessings upon St. John's, Whiting. At the start, *Paranews* of January 1 proudly announced: "You'll be hearing *Jubilee Year* throughout this year of 1972 . . . St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Whiting is 75 years old." — Plans had been laid for the Diamond Jubilee.

The story of the seventy-five years was to be told in a new Jubilee Book which would sum up the Golden Jubilee *Fifty Years of Grace* as a basis and prelude to the story of the past twenty-five years, with the great spiritual and material progress evident in the present *greater St. John's.*

The commemorative celebrations call to mind the early pioneer days of the founding, and as well the particular anniversaries of individuals and families of the parish. All the spiritual and social activities are Jubilee-oriented. "We hope all our events will reflect the accomplishments of the past," says *Paranews* of January 1. The year's programs with spirtual, cultural, social and athletic activities, aimed at "total involvement."

The spirit of the Jubilee was caught up and delightfully expressed by Lillian Jefchak writing in *Hark,* January 16, 1972, under the title *Jubilee Year, 75*:

> In 1897 William McKinley was inaugurated the 25th President of the United States; James J. (Gentleman Jim) Corbett was defeated by Bob Fitzsimmons in a 14-round bout at Carson City, Nevada; Virginia O'Hanlon wrote her letter to the Editor of the New York Sun asking, "Please, tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"; the Klondike Gold Rush started for more than 20,000 persons, and new songs were "Asleep in the Deep," "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere," and "Stars and Stripes Forever."



JUBILEE YEAR COMMITTEE, left to right: James Homco, Jack Biel, Lillian Jefchak, Father Edward Homco, George Grenchik, and Norbert Grenchik.

> In Whiting, Indiana, Father Benedict Rajcany arrived on April 17th, marking the beginning of St. John the Baptist Catholic Church when he said Mass on Easter Sunday, April 18th. This is our Jubilee Year! — 75 years! . . . Let's make this the year we say: "Thank You, God!" Let's make this the year we gather together often so that we can enjoy one another and all the benefits of our parish.

Then she alludes to the future programs: Slovak Mass and Mission to honor the Slovak heritage, the Parish Mass and Day, the Parish Picnic, the Holy Name Dinner, the Marian Theater Guild special Jubilee productions.

> The Home and School Association, the Junior Rosary, the school children — are all planning specials. Each event held in our parish this year is another tribute to the foundation of St. John's in Whiting.

PARANEWS - HARK NEWS

The KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL was blessed by Bishop Grutka on January 15. Following the blessing and the Eucharistic Liturgy, celebrated by the Bishop at 5:30, there was a concert by the Jerry Murad's Harmonicats. The big event closed Sunday evening, January 16, with a banquet and dance to the music of Frankie Masters Orchestra.

Three Jubilee Dinners marked the first Jubilee months: the SPAGHETTI DINNER sponsored by the Holy Name Society; the SENIOR CITIZENS' DINNER, parish tribute to the elder citizens; and the FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER.

The SPAGHETTI DINNER was announced for January 8th. "Every one is welcome." Tickets at $1.50 meant *wine included.*

> After the 5:30 Mass 369 parishioners and their friends enjoyed an excellent meal prepared by the Panel Room staff. Good food, good wine, good friends . . . Chairman of the event: George Tomko, assisted by John Bobos, Frank Czechanski, William Furto, Mike Tomko, Al Olds, and Tony Barilla.

In a very gentle way, the SENIOR CITIZENS' DINNER was more exclusive, though probably no less gay.

> St. John's Parish will hold a dinner party honoring the senior citizens group on Tuesday, February 15, at 5:30 in the Mural Room as part of the 75 Year Jubilee Celebration. Parishioners 60 years or older are invited to attend this event as guests of the parish . . . Our Slovak

heritage will be the theme of the dinner. It is our small way of saying "Thank You!" for the special contribution to the parish by our Slovak predecessors and those who will be at the dinner to celebrate our 75th Jubilee Year. (*Paranews,* January 30, *Hark,* February 13)

This honored group, invited to stay on after the dinner, joined with the entire parish and its guests for the FASANGI-MARDI GRAS evening:

> Strains of the Czardas, the Polka and Waltz will all ring from the Panel Room, on this evening of February 15. It's Mardi Gras time at St. John's . . . We hope to refresh some memories with a Slovak song fest and a hearty "HEJ SLOVACI." (*Hark,* February 13)

Paranews of February 20 comments on the huge success of this meeting of young and old:

> Sincere THANK YOU to all those committee members who worked so hard. Their efforts were rewarded, for that night will be long remembered as one of the outstanding events in this year of our Parish's 75th Celebration. There was such a good and friendly spirit, a real cordiality among the people. It was a warmth that is nice to know as really alive among our parish family.

Then the writer adds wryly,

> We do hope, however, that some of the warmth helped to sooth those aching muscles next day.

FOUNDER'S DAY was rightly called PARISH DAY. It was a beautiful global day celebration of all the events since the lonely and forlorn Father Benedict had arrived in the "wilderness" which was once St. John's, Whiting, seventy-five years ago. Here we refer only to the "dinners." In the afternoon of April 23 there was the huge and hearty Panel Room CHICKEN DINNER. *Paranews* of April 30 informs us that "1300 pounds of chicken were prepared and served to over 1200 guests by 58 employees."

The grand DIAMOND JUBILEE DINNER was served in the Knights of Columbus Hall in the evening, and the diamond dinner dancing was to the music of Hal Morris and his orchestra. This gala dinner and its *Menu* brought to the writer's mind the story of Father Benedict Racjany's first contact with Lenten food (oysters) in this strange land as told in *Fifty Years of Grace.* The good founder would have raised an eyebrow at the sight of this menu and its non-Slovakian idiom, but we think he would have been rather proud that his St. John's had come so far.

MENU

INDIVIDUAL INTERNATIONAL ANTIPASTO PLATE

BREAD

PETITS PAINS AND BEURRE

SALAD

COEURS DE LAITUES AU ROQUEFORT

ENTREE

BOEUF TENDERLOIN A LA BOURGUIGNONNE

TOMATO FROMAGE

POTATO

POMMES DE TERRE A LA SOUFFLE

VEGETABLE

ASPERGES VERTESE SOSSE HOLLANDAISE

DESSERT *BEVERAGE*

CERISES FLAMBEES *CAFE*

Catered by Condes Brothers

SPIRITUAL SPECIALS OF 1972.

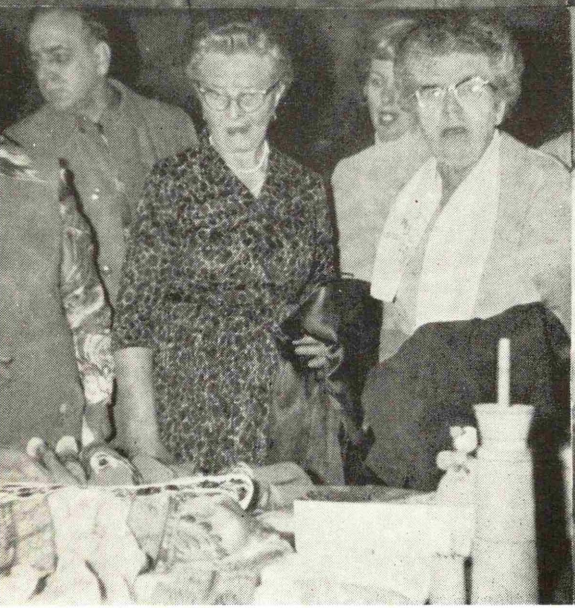
The most sacred week of the year linked the Catholic Slovak heritage of St. John's with the Central Event of Man's Redemption. On Palm Sunday the palms were blessed in the Panel Room before the solemn procession into the church for the Eucharistic liturgy at 10:30 a.m. European in style, the procession picturesquely displayed the Slovak costumes and banners. Particularly impressive was the Offertory Procession.

Most appropriately the Slovak Mission began at 2:00 in the afternoon with the Eucharistic liturgy, celebrated in the Slovak vernacular, and continued through Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, thus preparing for the Great Paschal Liturgy. Father J. C. Jablonovsky, Passionist missionary, celebrated the Eucharistic liturgy each day and preached the mission sermons. There was also a Slovak Exhibit in the Parochial Center.

The *Paranews* of this week (Palm Sunday, March 26) gives us the context. After listing the mission events, it lists the remainder of the sacred program for Holy Week.









SLOVAK TEA held on Palm Sunday, March 26, preceeding the Mission Services, which were directed by a Passionist missionary. The Tea also featued a display (below) of items from Czechoslovakia, shown by Mary and Monica Mores.





Holy Thursday

(no morning Masses)

7:00 a.m. — Morning Prayer — (Lauds)
10:00 to 11:00 a.m. — Confessions
3:00 to 5:00 p.m. — Confessions
7:00 p.m. — Choir Concert
7:30 p.m. — Liturgy: Concelebrated Mass: Adoration until Midnight
11:20 p.m. — Adoration in Song (Choir)
12 Midnight — Solemn Close of Adoration (Night Prayer — Compline)

Paranews comments: Holy Thursday places the focus on the single Mass of Concelebration (the Night of the Lord's Supper). Thursday morning at 7:00 a.m. you are invited to participate in the Church's official morning prayer. In the evening you are encouraged to spend some time in adoration. The Holy Name Society will have its annual Holy Hour beginning at 11:00 p.m. Adoration will close at midnight with the recitation of the Church's prayer of eventide.

Good Friday

10:00 to 11:00 a.m. — Confessions
12:00 Noon — Meditations
1:45 p.m. — Choir Concert
2:00 p.m. — Solemn Liturgy
7:00 to 8:00 p.m. — Confessions

Holy Saturday

10:00 to 11:00 a.m. — Confessions
2:00 to 5:00 p.m. — Confessions
2:00 p.m. — Blessing of the Easter Baskets
7:00 p.m. — Choir Concert
7:30 p.m. — Holy Saturday Vigil Mass

The Easter Vigil Liturgy of the Word

"We have begun our solemn vigil. Let us now listen attentively to the Word of God, recalling how he saved his People through history and in the fullness of time, sent his own Son to be our Redeemer. Through this Easter celebration, may God bring to perfection the saving work he has begun in us."

Most appropriately and in accord with ancient tradition, the Feast of the Lord's Resurrection was St. John's First Holy Communion Day.

Parish Day . . . April 23, 1972

Historically we date the beginnings of St. John's Parish back to the first Mass celebrated by Father Benedict Rajcany on April 18, 1897, Easter Sunday. Sunday, April 23, was set as the *Jubilee Day* or *Parish Day* in commemoration of the propitious event of April 18, 1897.

The main celebrant of the Mass was the Very Reverend Daniel Schaefer, Moderator of the Society of the Precious Blood. Concelebrating with him were the priest sons of the parish and former assistant pastors. Plumed Knights of Columbus, the Fourth Degree members of the Abraham Lincoln General Assembly, lined the main aisle of the church as the solemn procession moved toward the altar. The trumpets blared, bells rang, and the choir sang *Psalm* 150:

Praise the Lord in his sanctuary.

Liturgy of the Word

First Scripture Reading: 1 Kings 8: 15-21
Mr. John Boyle
Response: The Lord is my shepherd.
Second Scripture Reading: Revelation 21: 1-4
Mr. John Boyle
Alleluia Verse and Response
Gospel Reading: John 10: 1-10
Reverend Edward G. Homco

Homily — Very Reverend Daniel Schaefer

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Procession — Gifts of Bread, Wine, and two candles, symbolzing seventy-five years of God's graces — Presented by Parish Council

Hymn — "Pan Jezis Kristus" — Choir

Hymn — Take Our Bread — Congregation

Communion Hymn — Where Charity and Love Prevail
Congregation

Hymns — Regina Coeli and Panis Angelicus — Choir

Thanksgiving Prayer — Mr. John Gazda

Response — Song of Thanks — Congregation

Recessional Hymn — Holy God — Congregation and Choir

Hymn — Hallelujah Chorus — Choir

Songs and prayers for the liturgy were selected by the Parish Liturgy Committee headed by Father Kalicky. St. John's Choir, under direction of Mrs. Faith Tumidalsky and accompanied by Brother George Blackney, sang the Mass. The Mass was followed by the renewal of baptismal vows.



JUBILEE YEAR BIRTHDAY PARTY — APRIL 17

Special Guests at Home and School Association's Jubilee Party for all the School Children, left to right: Mayor Harangody of Whiting, Mrs. Jean Hartnett, Assistant to Mayor Joseph Glen of Hammond, Father Edward Homco, and Rudy Wunder, President of the Home and School Association.

St. John's School was delightfully involved in the Jubilee events. Under the direction of the Home and School Association President, Rudolph Wunder, Jr., a "king size party" was held after the ALL SCHOOL MASS at 1:00 p.m. Since birthday parties are a special delight for children, especially when they burst into song, there was a special song for this birthday of the parish:

Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday, dear St. John's!
Happy birthday to you! (*Hark, April* 16)

The *Times Graphic* of April 26, local Whiting journal, featured the event with a front page picture. 658 children shared in the birthday celebration.

In the afternoon in the gym, the impressive exhibits of the SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR drew an immense crowd. The work was hosted by grades fourth to eighth and Social Studies instructor, Thomas Puplava.

In the auditorium the children had prepared the "International Dance Festival" and musical depicting the salient points in the development of Whiting. The performances were enthusiastically received. Among the press reports we note the following from the local *Times* of April 23:

> St. John the Baptist Church will observe its 75th anniversary today and honor the memory of the Rev. Benedict Rajcany with an "International Song and Dance Festival." Show time is 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the St. John the Baptist School. Whiting's history will be reviewed in song and dance by school students portraying life in Whiting's early days in 1897 when Father Rajcany and 150 parishioners founded St. John's. The dance program was produced and directed by Teacher James Crinion and Brother George Blackney. Seventh and eighth graders made up the cast.

PARANEWS REPORTS FOR JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Though Jubilee is the major event of the year, we may not neglect the *Paranews* reports of other things temporal and spiritual. *Paranews* for January 1 reports: The eighth grade girls volley ball team was awarded the first place trophy and badges in the Gary diocesan tournament. . . . A home visit of every family in the parish is planned for the Jubilee Year by the pastors of St. John's thus giving the Fathers occasion for a "visit at length" with each parishioner (*Paranews,* January 9). . . . St. Theresa Club donates $500.00 to the parish (*Paranews, January* 16). . . . Congratulations to the St. John School winners and their teacher, Mrs. James Homco, in the Math Tournament held at Noll Institute last Saturday: First Place: Kathy Hajduch and Leta Homco. Second Place: Jeff Buhring and Karen Susoreny. Third Place: Carol Mattes. Fourth Place: Mary Kubeck. Fifth place: Mary Kay Repay and Jeff Boswell (*Paranews,* January 23). James Hilton, former Chief of Police of Gary, speaks on narcotics to the St. John's Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts on February 13. . . . The Scouts are the guests of the Holy Name Society. The breakfast and lecture follow the 9:00 a.m. Mass. (*Paranews,* January 30). . . . Mr. Andrew Miterko was given the "Mr. Knight of Columbus of the Years" award, and Mr. Walter Rudzinski "The Knight of the Year 1971" award (*Paranews,* February 6).



JUBILEE PROJECT — The Junior Rosary Sodality's Cook Book was reprinted, with special new cover, in the Diamond Jubilee Year. Checking over the results are Mrs. Edward Matusak, left, Chairman of the Project, and Mrs. John Klochan, Vice President of the Sodality.

Paranews for February 13 announces the Lenten series: lecture on the Gospels, with small discussion groups after the lecture. . . . These are a part of a very special liturgical and educational program. . . . Congratulations to Mrs. John Kender, winner of the "Citizens Award" presented by the Whiting Elks. . . . The eighth grade girls are undefeated in four games in the C.Y.O. league which plays on Saturday at BNI (*Paranews,* February 20).

Father Homco joined with other priests of the diocese in a Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday, February 25; marking the 15th anniversary day of the formation of our diocese. Congratulations, Bishop Grutka! (*Paranews,* February 27). . . . Congratulations: to Linda Novosel of our eighth grade who took first place in the 7th Annual Diocesan C.Y.O. Spelling Bee, and to our 7th grade boys basketball team which finished in first place in the Hammond C.Y.O. League with a 10-0 record. Special thanks to Joe Gulvas and Bill Furtak for their fine coaching. (*Paranews,* March 5).

The ET CETERA of March-April

Congratulations to Kenneth Kalina who was awarded the sportmanship trophy last week at the St. Andrew's Tournament. Our seventh grade boys took fourth place in an exhibition that involved 32 teams . . . The Old Timers' Game is scheduled for Friday, March 17 . . . Father Filas, S.J., speaks on *Authority in the Home* at the H.S.A. meeting on March 21. (*Paranews,* March 12) . . . *Paranews* for March 26, Palm Sunday, announces the Golf Outing at Oak Knoll, Crown Point, Sunday, July 9 . . . And the Bowling Tournament at Towne House Lanes on Saturday and Sunday, June 17th and 18th. . . . St. John's C.Y.O. sponsors an Easter Sunday evening dance with music to be provided by the Clique-Shays in St. John Gym. "Wear a sturdy pair of socks, since no shoes will be permitted in the gym."

Congratulations to eighth grade girls who won the diocesan basketball tournament. Miss Virginia Kusnir and Miss Cindy Adam, their coaches, return to Whiting with another trophy and C.Y.O. championship badges. . . . Jubilee Year office opens in the Panel Room on Monday, April 3. (*Paranews,* April 2). . . . Third Order of St. Francis has its special divine services this afternoon at 2:00, conducted by Father Joseph Portaski, O.F.M., of Seven Dolors Shrine. (*Paranews,* April 16)

Paranews of April 30 reports that the Parish Day was a great success, a memorable day in St. John's history. . . .

A constant stream visited the Social Studies exhibit. Brother Leo, Barbara Tomko, Kathy Vargo, Rita Vargo and Karen Walski spent over seven hours assembling the special edition of the *Paranews*. . . . The *Sunday Visitor* carries the Parish Anniversary story.

Priestly Jubilees in May

Elsewhere in this story of jubilee we tell of Father Joseph Hajduch and his work in the parish. Here we touch upon the beautiful celebration of his silver jubilee as a priest. He offered the Eucharistic Liturgy — or concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving — at 8:00 p.m. on May 17 in St. John's Church with Father Homco delivering the homily. After the Mass there was *open house* for family and a host of friends in the Panel Room. We congratulate Father Joseph Hajduch, his four brothers, Andrew, Richard, David, and Jerome. Ad multos Annos!

* * * * *

Father Albert Wuest and Father Francis Kinney celebrated priestly jubilees on Saturday evening, May 13, in St. John's Church. For Father Wuest, chairman of the department of chemistry at St. Joseph's Calumet College, it was the fortieth anniversary, for Father Kinney, chairman of the department of education at St. Joseph's, his twenty-fifth. Both had faithfully assisted at St. John's in their daily offering of the Eucharistic liturgy. They joined in a concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving on this Saturday at 7:00. Father Francis Sullivan, now at Notre Dame University, and formerly on the teaching staff at St. Joseph's, Calumet, preached the homily. After the liturgical celebration there was the festive *open house* for a host of relatives and friends in the Panel Room, with G. Richard Schreiber, of Chicago, as Master of Ceremonies.

Joy Turns to Sorrow

Father Albert Wuest, only slowly recovering from critical illness was fatally stricken during the night of this joyous celebration. He was called to final rest on May 19. His life was an inspiration of fidelity to priestly duty.

A New Assignment for Father Wohlwend

The *Paranews* of June 4 announces that Father Paul Wohlwend has been appointed pastor of St. Peter's Church, Winamac, Indiana. "This new appointment comes almost five and one half years after his first stormy arrival at St.

John's during that crippling snow storm of February, 1967. During these past years Father Paul has served us well." The parish organizations of which Father was moderator hosted an open house in his honor. At Winamac Father Paul succeeds Father Louis Telegdy, a familiar figure in our history.

Father Wohlwend was moderator of the Marian Theatre Guild, the Legion of Mary, the Scouts, editor of the *Paranews,* director of the monthly raffle and general 'fix-it' man and official rectory photographer. *Paranews,* June 11 has this response in thanks for the farewell party:

> Four months and five years ago the citizens of this area were digging out of a record snowfall. Fortunately the steeple of St. John's Church was still visible above the drifts and served as a welcoming guide so that I was able to find the half-buried old rectory.
>
> Last Sunday evening it was my turn to be "snowed under" by the kindness of so many parishioners whom I have been privileged to know and serve . . . A blessed thanks to all who endured and worked with me to make these past years most happy for a Buckeye now transplanted to the Hoosier cornfields. *Fr. Paul*

Father John Srode

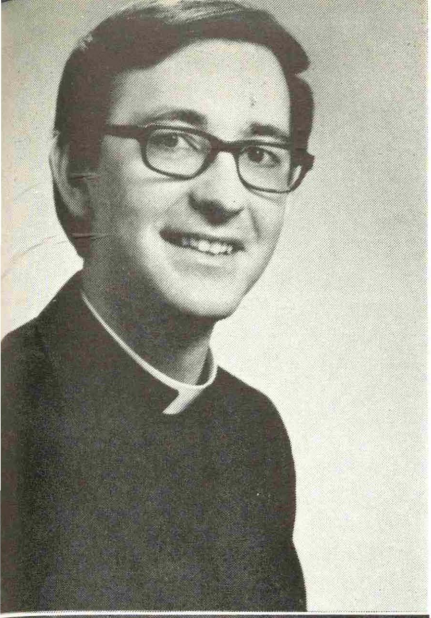
Father Paul Wohlwend is to be succeeded by Father John Srode, who will come to St. John's in August. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1972, at Carthagena, Ohio, by Bishop Joseph Marling.

Jubilee Blessings: Father Reczek . . . Father Stack

Paranews of June 25 bears this front-page headline: *Jubilee Year Blessings,* with the picture of the two newly ordained priests of the parish. Beneath is the legend: Over the past seventy-five years, our parish has been blessed with many vocations to the religious life. This anniversary year, we continue to be blessed as two sons of the parish are made priests through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

Father Paul Reczek

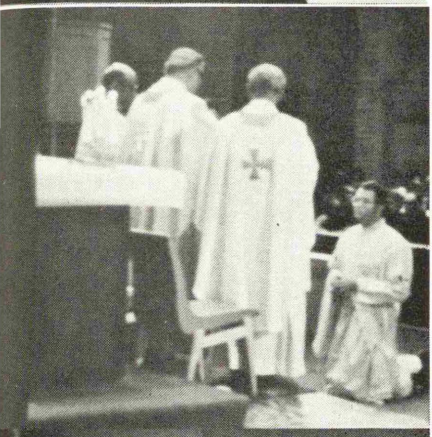
Paul Reczek is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reczek of Stewart Court. On June 3 he was ordained for the Franciscan Order by Archbishop William E. Cousins, of Milwaukee. On June 11, at noon, in concelebration with the Fathers of the Precious Blood and his Franciscan brothers, he offered

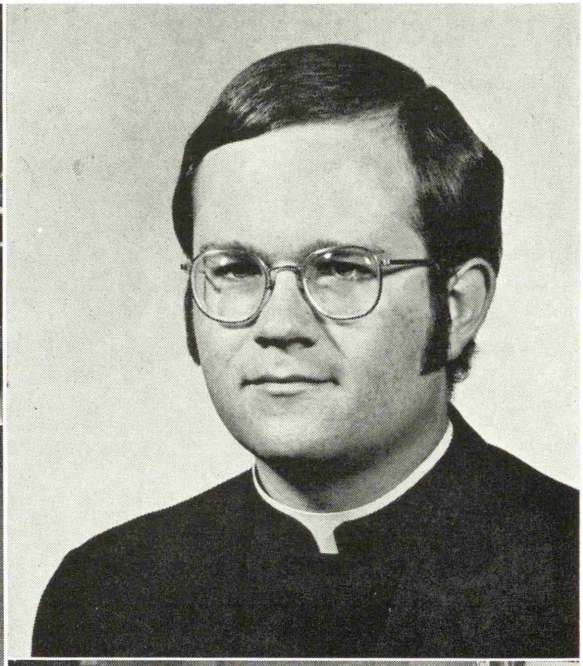


Father Paul Reczek

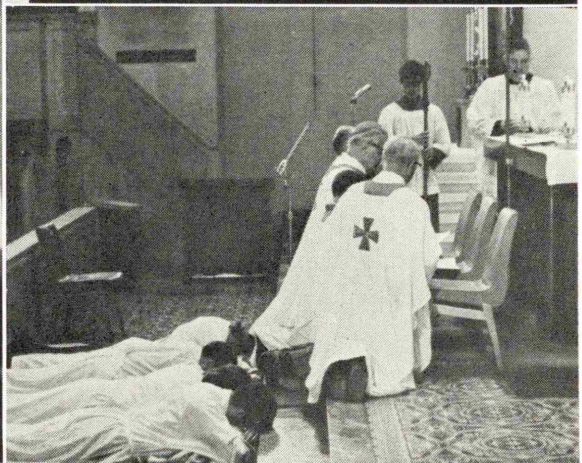
JUBILEE BLESSINGS

Father Jerome Stack









his first Mass of Thanksgiving. From the special missalette, done in modest brown mindful of his order and its founder, St. Francis of Assisi, we learn that the Rev. Alphonse Spilly delivered the homily. Wishing him God's blessing, we join in his prayer:

> With joy I ask our Father in heaven to bless my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Reczek; my sisters, Therese and Marian; and all my relatives and friends.

Relatives, friends, parishioners were invited to "open house" in the Mural Room from three to five.

Father Jerome Stack

Jerome Stack, C.PP.S., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Stack of St. John's parish, was raised to the holy priesthood by reception of the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Saturday, June 24, in St. John's Church, at 5:30 in the evening. The ordaining prelate was Bishop Grutka of the diocese of Gary.

On Sunday, June 25, at noon, his fellow priests joined with Father Stack in offering his first concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving in St. John's Church. Father John Kalicky preached the homily. In the afternoon the newly ordained Father imparted the Eucharistic Benediction. A social hour followed in the Panel Room which relatives and friends and parishioners were invited to honor him and wish him God's blessing on his sacred ministry.

Eucharistic Liturgy: Renewal of Marriage Vows

In the first pages of Part Four of our *Jubilee Year Book* we gave a theological comment on the sacrament of marriage together with a list of couples celebrating their wedding jubilee. On one particular occasion in this jubilee year, however, the married couples repeated the sacred commitment made at the reception of the holy sacrament, (June 10), at the *Renewal of Marriage Vow Mass.* The theme was:

Love One Another

Entrance Hymn: All the earth proclaim the Lord.
First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 26: 1-4, 16-18.
Margaret Saliga
Scripture Response: "The Lord is kind and merciful."
Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 2, 25-32 George Saliga
Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
God is love. Let us love one another as He has loved us.



RENEWAL OF MARRIAGE VOWS — JUNE 10

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Zabrecky (married 55 years) present hosts and wine to Father Edward Homco at Marriage Vow Mass, during which the married couples in the parish renewed their marriage vows in unison.

Renewal of Marriage Vows:

Priest: Since it is your intention to enter into this renewal of marriage vows,, join your right hands and declare your consent before God and his Church.

Husbands: I (N) continue to take you to be my wife. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Wives: I (N) continue to take you to be my husband. I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life.

Husbands and Wives: Since we give as we have received, open us, Lord, to receive from you the love that comes through Christ through His Church, so that we may give this love to one another as husband and wife, and to others as friends and neighbors, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

Priest: Lord, inspire those men and women, who bear the titles "Husband" and "Wife." Help them look to you, to themselves, to one another, to rediscover the fullness and mystery they once felt in their union. Let them be honest enough to ask: "Where have we been together, and where are we going?" Let them be brave enough to question: "How have we failed?" Help them, together to re-examine their commitment in the light of your love — willingly, openly, compassionately. Help them, together to believe how fragile, yet attainable their love can be. Give "Husband" and "Wife" the courage to be for each other a person rather than a title. Amen.

Prayer of the faithful: (Response after the final petition)
Lord continue to bless our marriage.

Offertory Hymns: Of my hands

Communion Hymn: Kumbaya

Common Thanksgiving: (1 Cor. 12:31. 13:8a)

All: Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but I am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited, it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offense and is not resentful.

Love takes no pleasure in other people's sins, but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.

Recessional Hymn: Now thank we all our God.

Happy the husband of a really good wife;
the number of his days will be doubled.

A perfect wife is the joy of her husband.
he will live out the years of his life in peace.

Husbands should love their wives just as Christ loved the Church.

Since as Christ is Head of the Church and saves the whole body, so is a husband the head of his wife.

We wish peace and happiness to all who have renewed their vows this evening and to all married couples of St. John's parish.

June 10th was indeed a day to remember. Note the social program after the evening Mass:

6:30 Cocktails and Dinner — Mural Room
8:00 "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown"
3 Act Play in Marian Memorial Auditorium
10:00 Wedding cake and coffee in the Mural Room

Some Special Summer Paranews Reports

Beyond the Jubilee Specials already recorded we note the following: On April 27: Card and Bunco Party and Style Show sponsored by the Junior Rosary Society. . . . May 7 at 7:30 p.m. slide-music presentation of Christ's Passion and Resurrection. Program composed by Mr. Robert Anderson, head of fine arts department at St. Joseph's Calumet College. . . . May 21: Mr. Rick Mlynarski directs Spring Concert, "You're a Grand Old Flag," by St. John's bands (beginners and advanced) in Marian Auditorium. . . . May 23: 25th Anniversary of H.S.A. Celebration in the Panel Room at 7:30 p.m. . . . *Paranews* of May 28 announces Special Religious Education Classes for Deaf Children of the area. . . . Memorial Mass in St. John's Cemetery offered by Bishop Grutka. . . .

Special Graduation Mass for high school graduates on June 4, in St. John's Church, at 9:00 a.m. Invitation ex-

tended to graduates of all high schools. . . . June 14: the fifteenth anniversary of Father Edward Homco's appointment as pastor of St. John's. Congratulations! . . . *Paranews,* June 11, announces with a bit of glee that "our choir is now sporting a new rug. It will not enhance the singing, which is already superb, but it will add safety and good looks to our church. Our thanks to Joe Tomko and Steve Kurella, who have proven they can still "cut-a-rug." . . . Grand Bowling Tournament at Towne House Lanes, June 17 and 18 . . . *Paranews,* June 18, announces a SUMMER SCHOOL OF RELIGION at St. John's. For education and enjoyment of the children from three to nine years old . . . experienced teachers . . . relaxed atmosphere . . . lessons of faith through bible stories, art, song and play . . . workshop for preparation of materials will precede the program . . . *Paranews,* June 25, announces that "Seminarian John Mencsik will be taking the census" on the assigned streets this week. John has been engaged in this pastoral exercise in preparation for his future work in the priesthood.

FROM THE JUBILEE SCRAP BOOK

The final pages of this Jubilee Story — if they are to meet the printer's deadline — can only in part be an actual record of past events as they occurred. Some of the most significant events must be presented as planned and set forth in the "Program for the Jubilee Year." In either instance our source is the JUBILEE STORY SCRAP BOOK which contains a fascinating collage of clippings, programs, tickets, parish announcements, mini summaries, etc. The themes are endless, but our special concern will be the MARIAN GUILD PRODUCTIONS.

> In this Jubilee Year we will stage three musicals. *Sweet Charity* will play the last three weekends of March. The middle two weekends of June our MTG Youth Workshop will present *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown.* And in the fall, late October and early November, *My Fair Lady* comes to the Marian Memorial Auditorium. These shows run the gamut of theatre from *Sweet Charity,* about a girl who tries to rise above her life style but never quite makes it; to *Charlie Brown* which brings the cartoon characters to life and Snoopy into your heart; last, but surely not least, *My Fair Lady* which shows you the step by step refinement of a young lady. (Jack Biel, *Scrap Book* clipping from *Hark,* March 12.)

Sweet Charity

This ambitious musical based upon the book by Neil Simon was directed by Tod Booth. It is a satirical characterization of "Charity, Oscar, and the rest of the cast" reflecting in a manner the familiar Archie Bunker of *All in a Family*. "Here we have a product of another environment with a morality and language of its own."

You're a Good Man Charlie Brown

This heart warming little musical was presented by the Marian Theatre Guild, Junior Players. Based on the immensely popular comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles Schultz, the book, music and lyrics are by Clark Gesner. The production was directed by Vicki Miller, the music by Mark Kruczek, with J. Don Kometz conducting the orchestra. (June 10-11, 17-18.)

My Fair Lady

This well known musical is scheduled for late October as an MTG production. In this instance we could speak of a special Mass-Dinner-Theatre Night open only to the single people of the parish. "We all felt the evening Mass for the Renewal of Marriage Vows was very impressive and now we honor the single vocations."

("Jubilee Scrap Book," clipping from *Paranews,* June 25)

In the month of July the Jubilee Golf Outing at Oak Knoll Course, Crown Point attracted forty nine participants, Sunday, July 9. Men's Trophy Winners: 1) Steve Matlon (71), 2) Joe Mareta (78), 3) Andy Puplava (80). Women's Trophy Winners: 1) Ann Anthony (93), 2) Jean Bukvich (96), 3) Mary Adam (110). Bowling and golf trophies will be presented at the Parish Picnic.

In the big July 4th Parade, St. John's had two winners. Marian Theatre Guild won first place among the organizational floats. Our band placed second in the "B" class.

A delightful organ concert on Sunday, July 23 by Brother George Blackney included the following numbers:

The Musical Clocks	F. Haydn
Pasticcio (and not Pistaccio)	J. Langlasis
Largo and Trumpet Tune	A. Vivaldi
Prelude and Fugue in G (BWV54)	J. S. Bach
O Ye daughters of Jerusalem	M. Dupre
Saint Francis Suite	R. Purvis

PARISH PICNIC — AUGUST 6, 1972

10:30 Mass at the baseball field — Whiting Park

The liturgy was particularly beautiful: *theme* — it is good that we are here to renew our faith in Christ by renewing the love we have for one another.

1:00 Concert by School Band. Rick Mlynarski, Director.

Sports: Softball: Old Timers vs. Young Uns
Bingo in the Pavilion (until 7:00 p.m.)
Children's Games and Adult Games — Prizes

7:00 Trophies awarded for Bowling and Golf Tournament
7:15 Raffle Drawing in the Pavilion

8:00 - 10:30 Youth Dance in Panel Room
Featuring Disc Jockey Larry Lujack

All Day: MTG clowns giving away candy and balloons

FOOD: bring your picnic baskets, or at nominal cost we offer a plate of hot dog, hamburger or polish sausage with potato chips and corn on the cob.

Special: all adults participating in the adult games will receive a ticket for the special drawing of a Magic Cube AM/FM Full Feature Clock Radio.

FINAL FEATURES

The plans for the final months of Jubilee Year 1972 point to the spiritual fruits of Jubilee as Year of Grace manifest in renewal of the Christian life, manifest in sacramental enrichment in church, home, work, and play, manifest in *thanksgiving* to God and loving service to men.

Nov. 19: Confirmation at St. John's. Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Nov. 23: Thanksgiving Day. Conclusion of a Triduum of Thanksgiving through the Forty Hours of Eucharistic Liturgical Prayer: Mass and Processions.

December: Christmas Concert.

Give thanks to God the Father always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:30)

Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and inspired songs. Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it in the name of the Lord Jesus. Give thanks to God the Father through him. (Col. 3:16f)

(*finis*)



PORTRAITS OF THE YEAR OF JUBILEE



FASANGI *MARDI*



DI GRAS FEBRUARY 15

(Parish Day — April 23 Next Eight Pages)

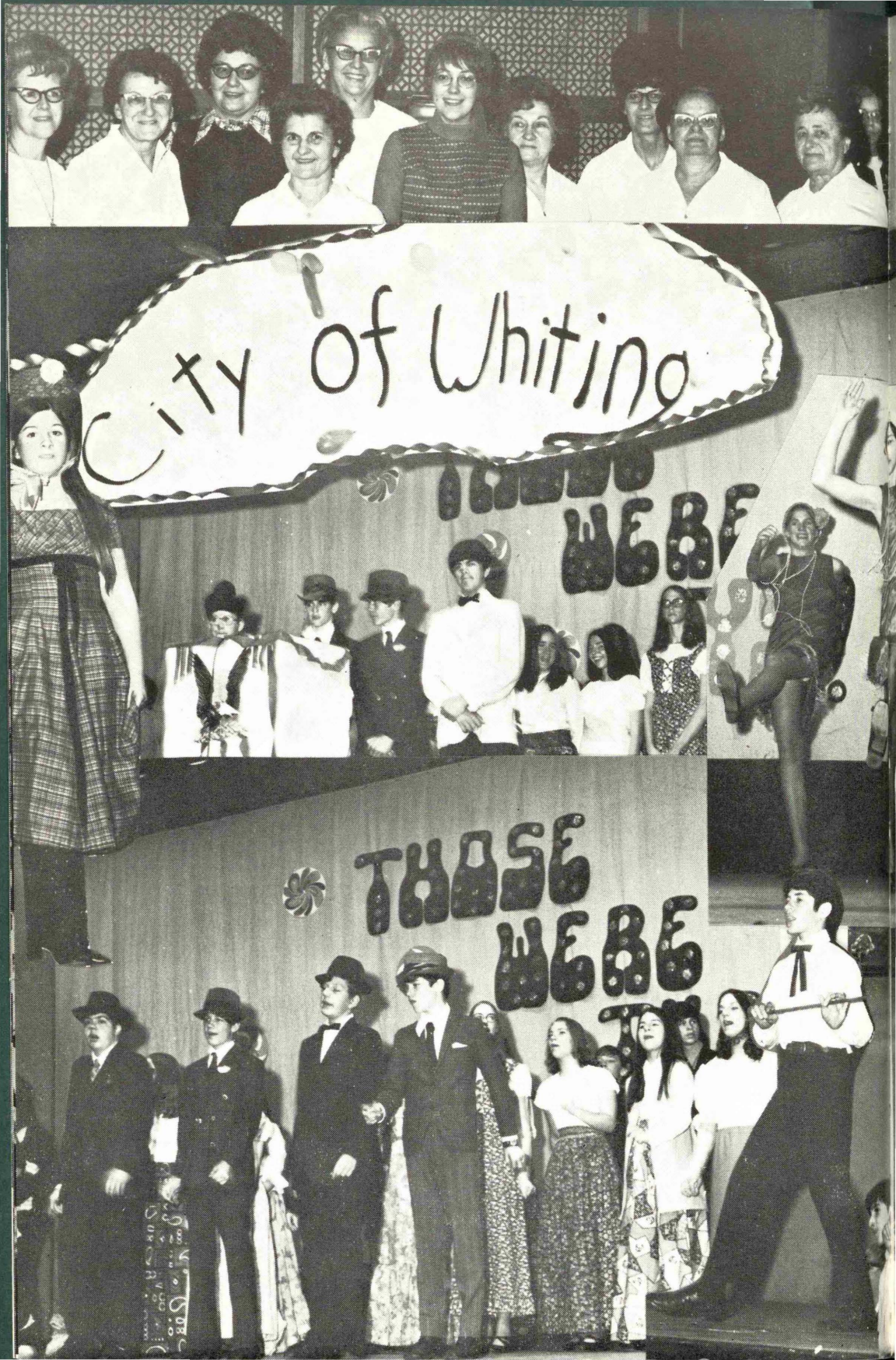

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

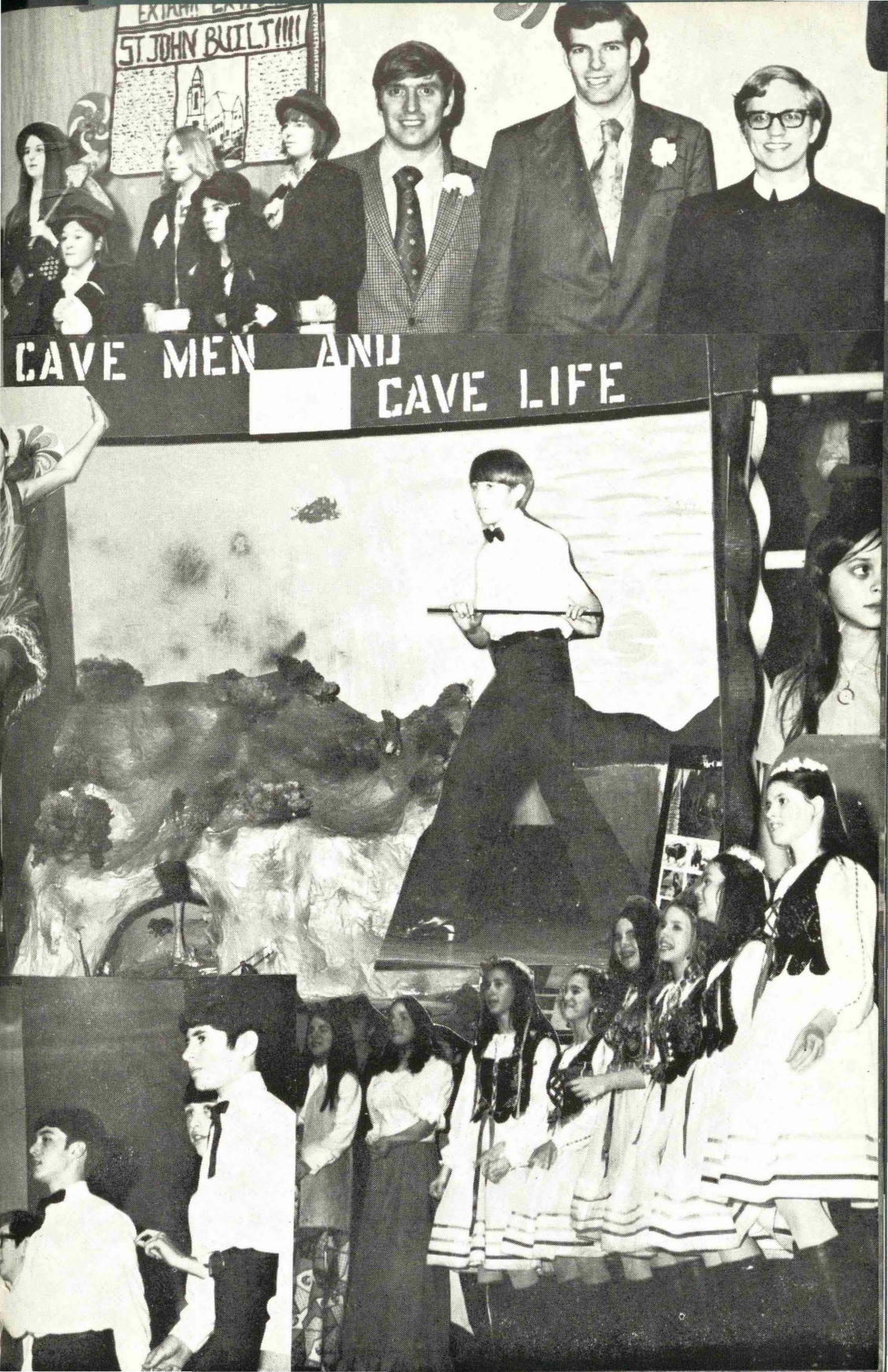

Joyful
75th
Year
Joyful
75th
Year

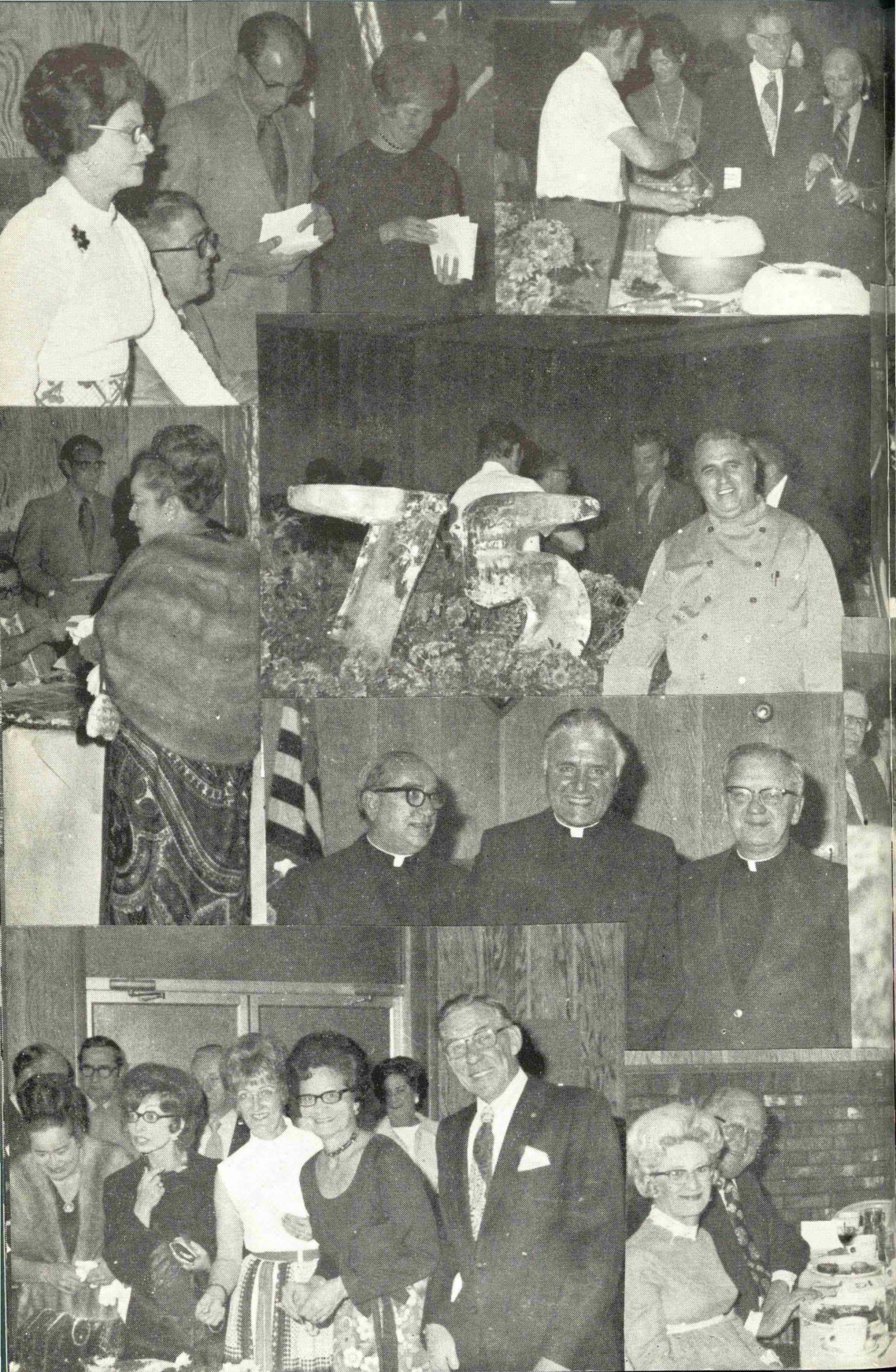




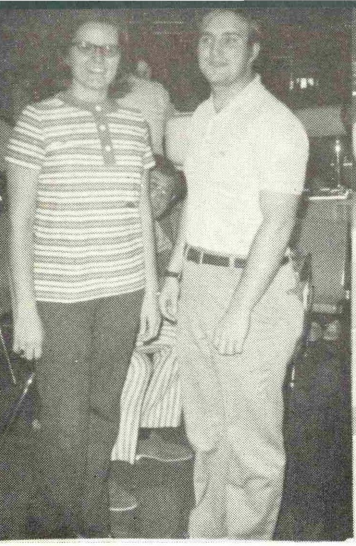


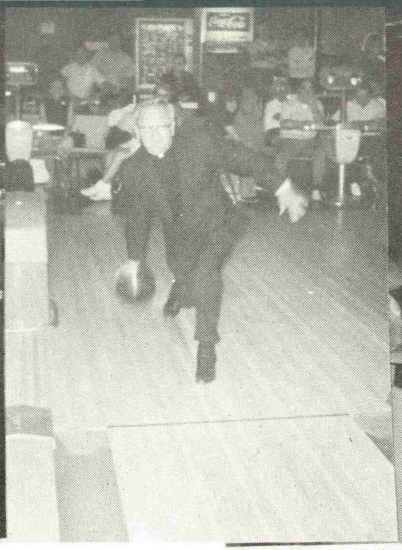

City of Whiting
THOSE WERE
THOSE WERE

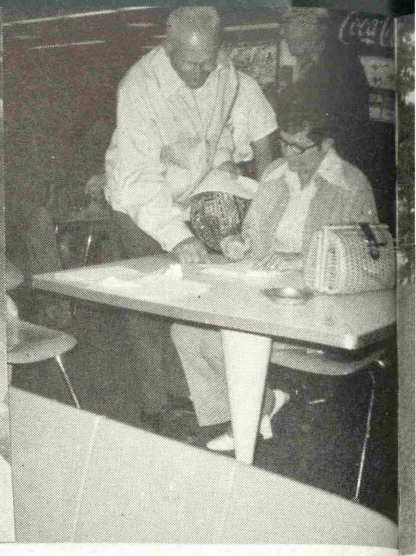

ST JOHN BUILT!!!!
CAVE MEN AND
CAVE LIFE







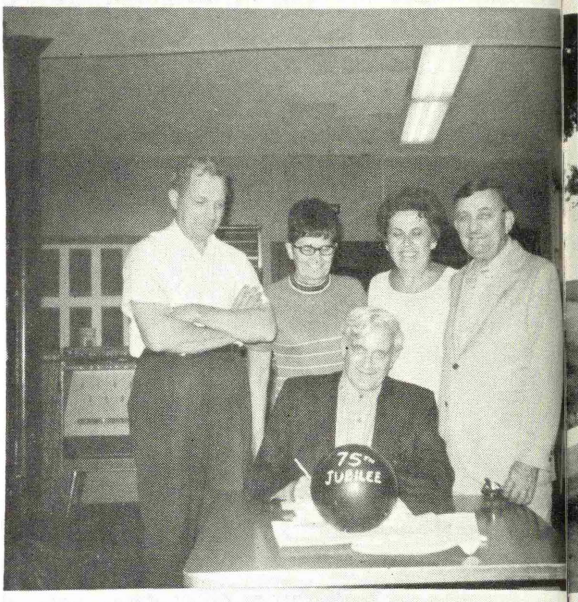


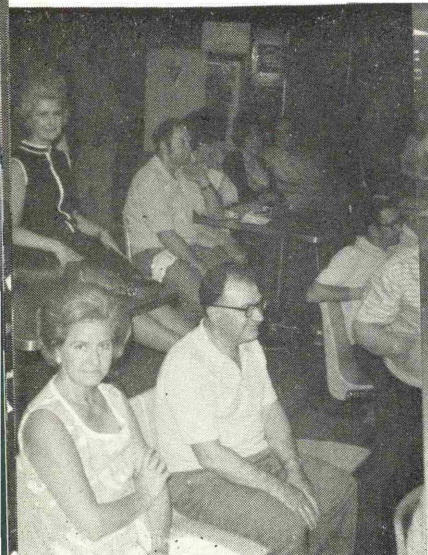


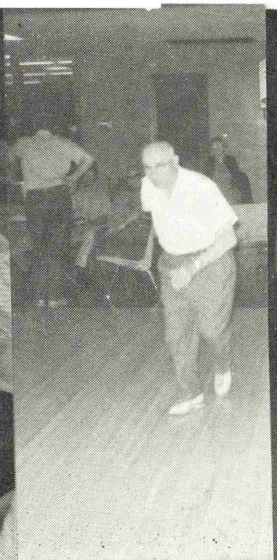
BOWLING
TOURNAMENT

JUNE 17 - 18

TOWN HOUSE
LANES



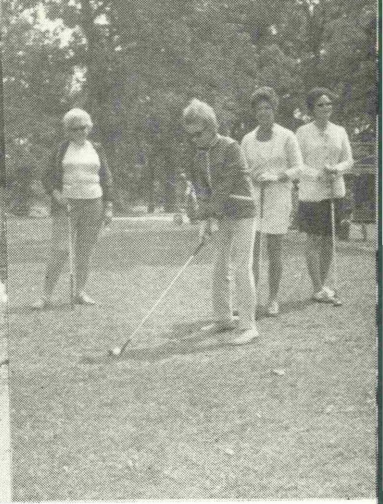


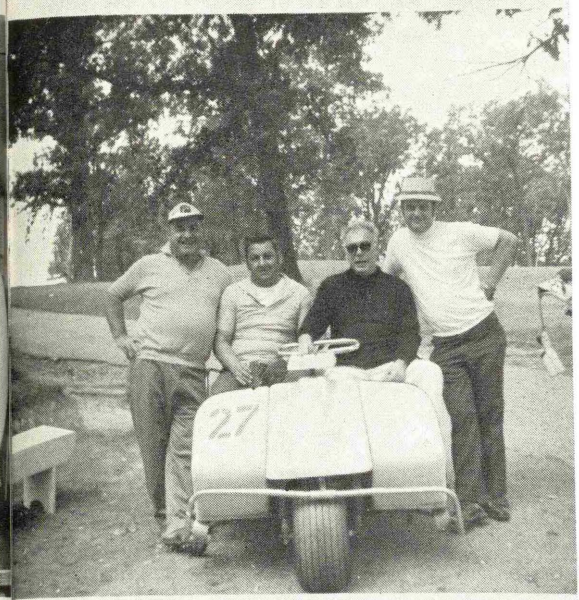












GOLF TOURNAMENT

JULY 9

OAK KNOLL GOLF COURSE



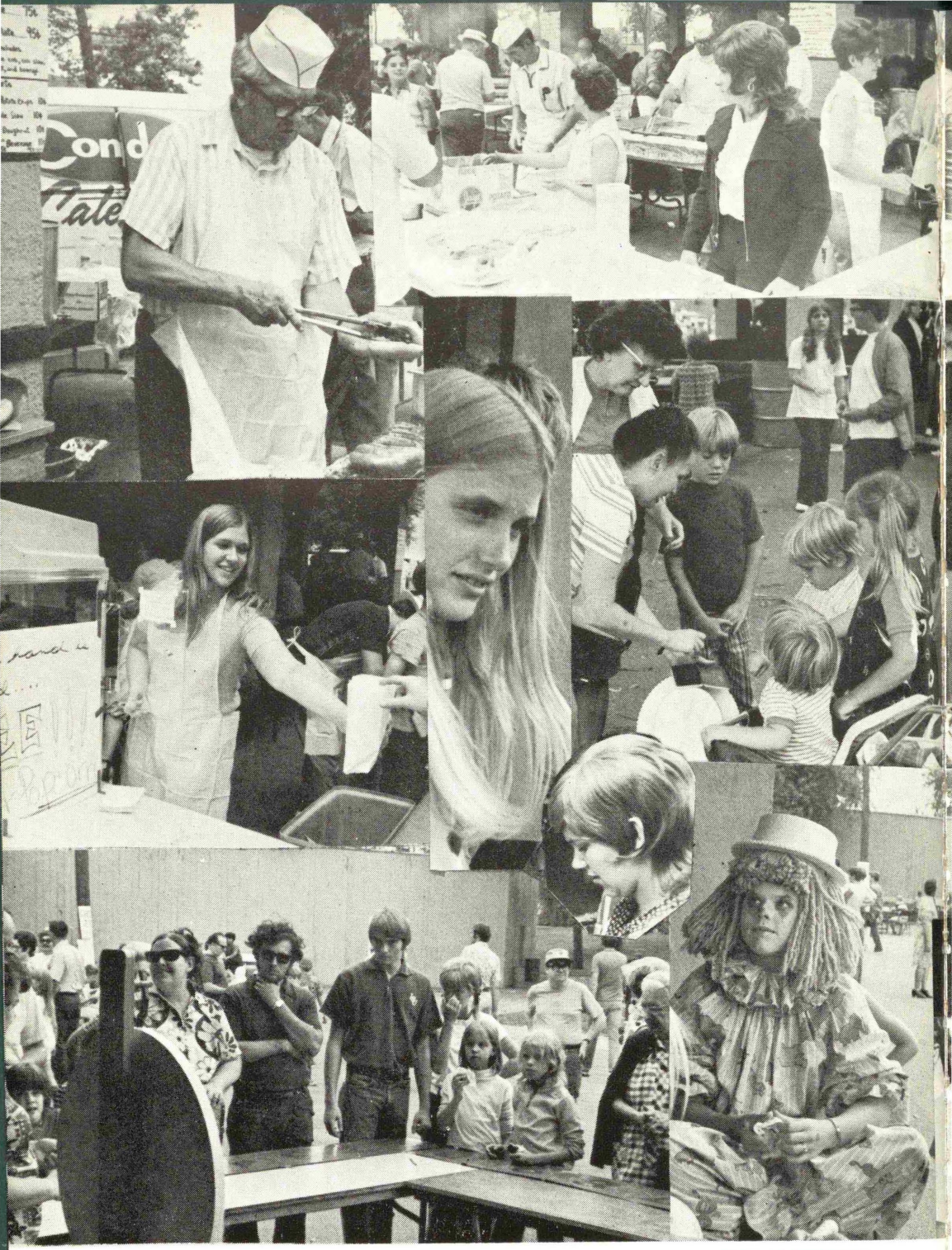




PARISH PICNIC *AUGUST*



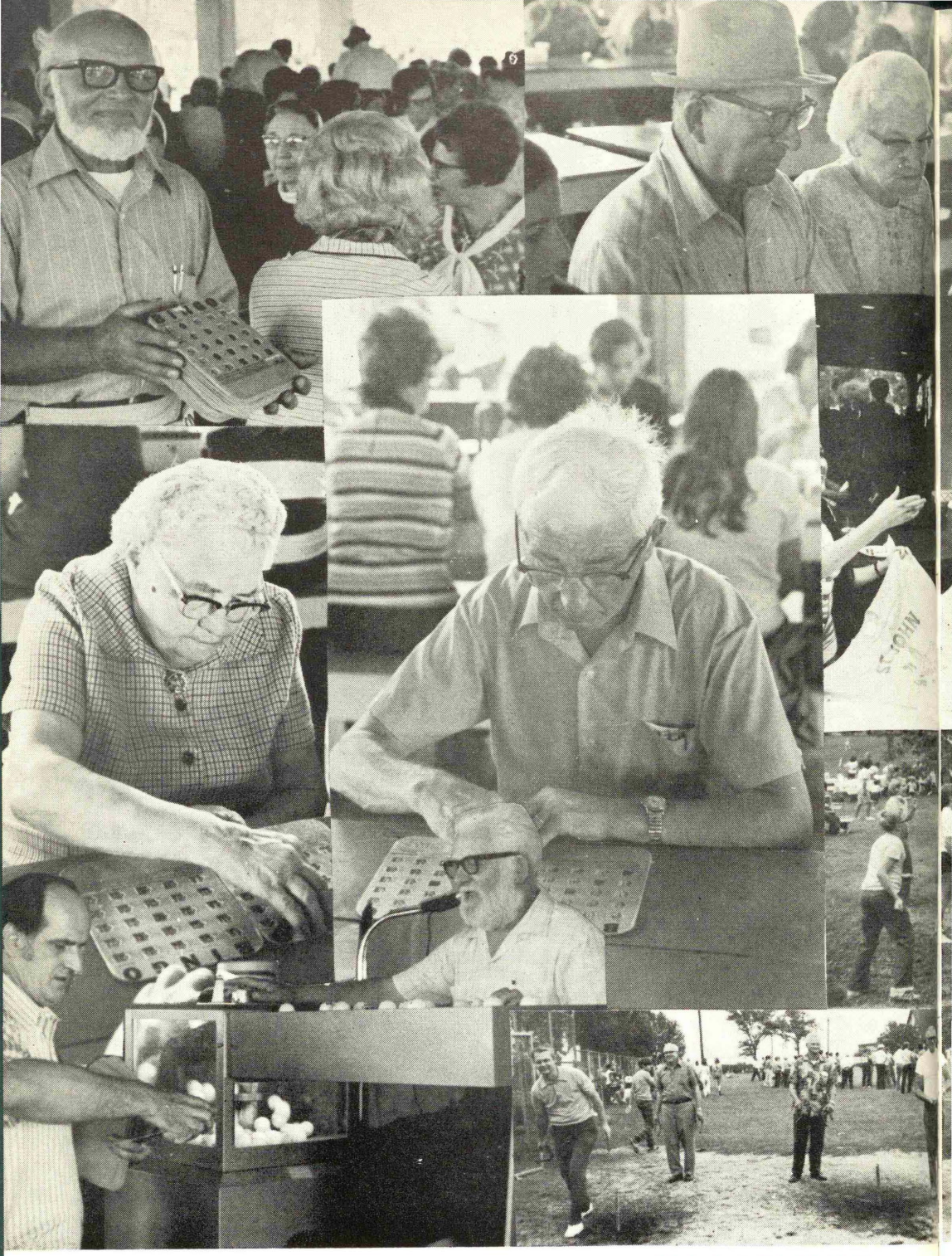
SIXTH *WHITING PARK*



FOOD *CLOWNS*



CONCERT *GAMES*



BINGO *HORSESHOE*

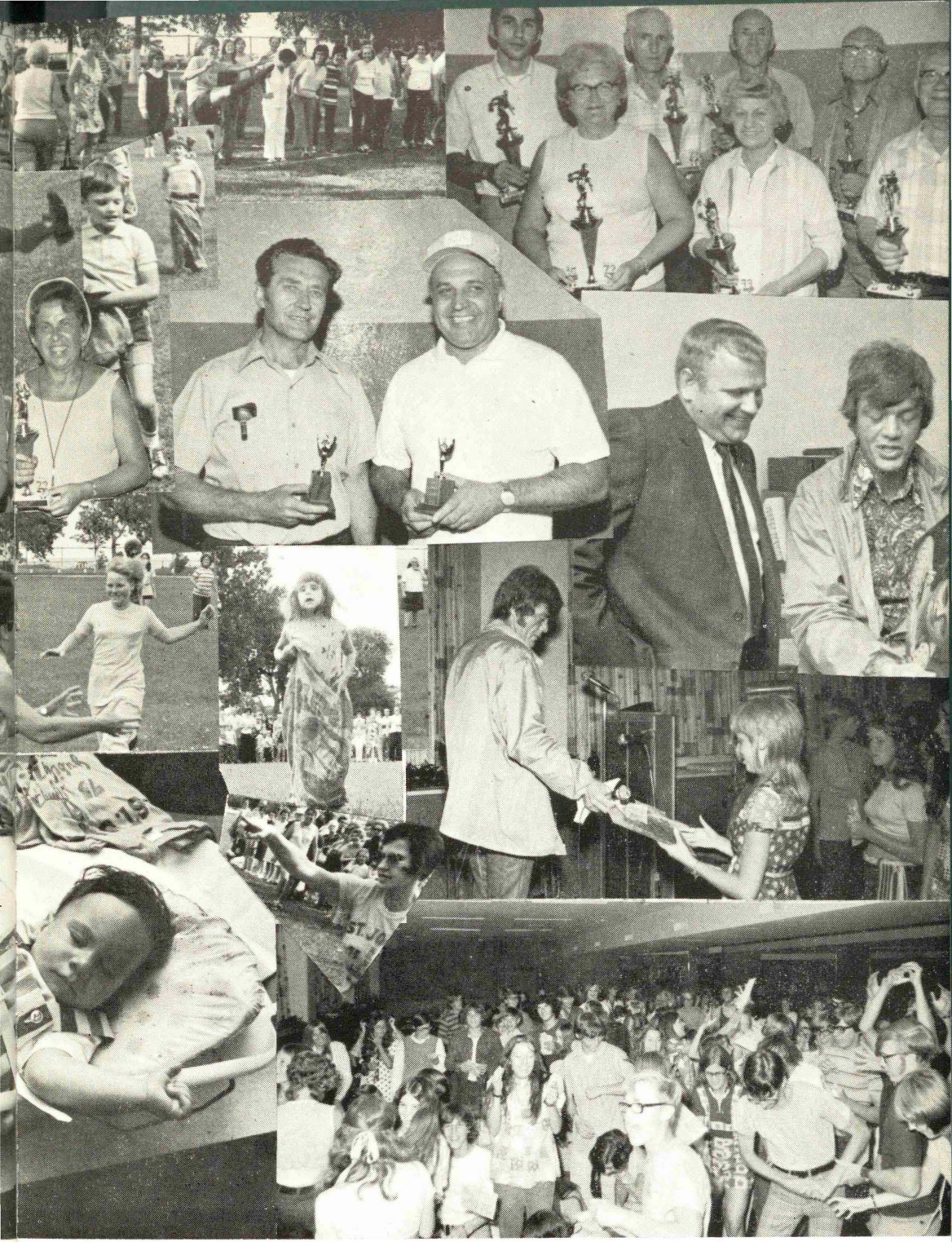


SOFTBALL

VOLLEYBALL



GAMES *AWARDS*



TIME OUT *TEEN DANCE*

THE EPILOGUE: OUR COMMITMENT

We close our Jubilee Story of St. John's-Whiting — the story of God's grace through seventy-five years — with a commitment of loving loyalty to the great Forerunner of the Savior and to the Savior to whom he constantly directs us.

The seventy-five years of grace are manifest in the sacramental life — with the Eucharist, Sacrifice and Sacrament its center — which truly fashions and forms the Church as the People of God. God's Son in our midst has diffused among us His Holy Spirit. With this Holy Spirit we form *one mystic person* (*una mystica persona*) and our prayer, work, and service is made pleasing to God.

We beg God's blessing upon this book, upon all who helped in its preparation, upon all the Parish of St. John. This we ask in deepest gratitude from the Heavenly Father, through His Son, our Lord and in His Holy Spirit.

To the Living Christ
We Offer
Our Lives in Joy and Sorrow
To Jesus Dying
Our Agony and Hope Of Resurrection
To the Dead Christ
The Repose Of Our Death
And
The Sorrow Of Those Who Mourn
To the Christ Of Glory
Our Loving Union In His Mystic Presence
Whether We Live Or Die We Belong To Christ

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